

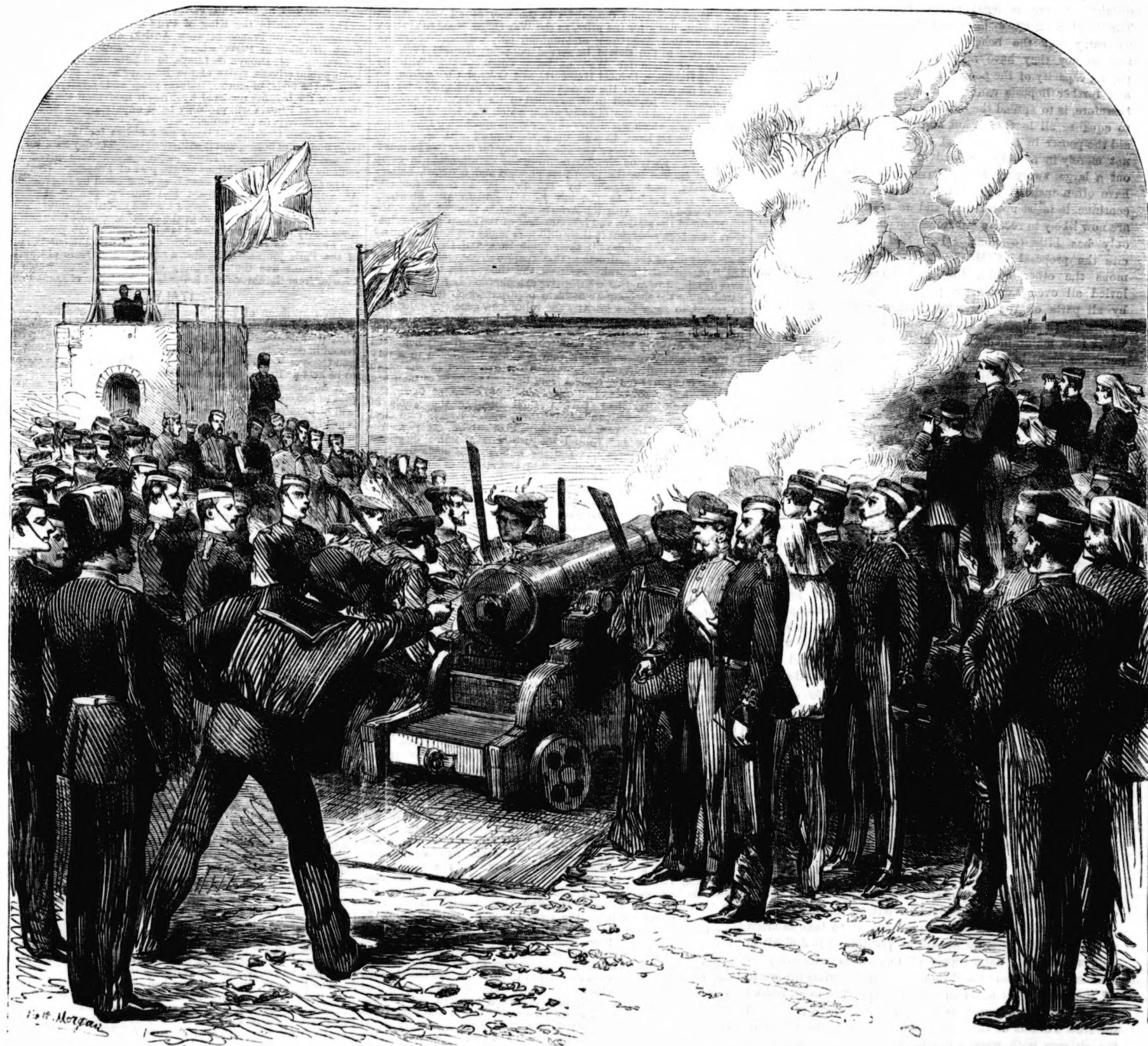
THE LESSONS CHOLERA TEACHES.

LONDON is again suffering from a visitation of cholera, and that of a type, it is said, more virulent than on any previous occasion. The mortality last week was nearly double the average rate, arising mainly from cholera and choleraic diarrhoea. As usual, the poorer districts of the city are suffering most severely. Poplar, Stepney, Bow, Bethnal-green, Mile-end, and Whitechapel are the scenes where the pestilence seizes upon the greatest number of victims; and these are precisely the quarters where we should naturally expect it to do so. However and wherever cholera may have its birth, it makes its chief habitat where the evils of poverty, filth, dissipation, bad drainage, defective ventilation, over-crowding, and impure and insufficient water most do abound. From cholera, as from other

epidemic disorders, those districts and those individuals suffer most which are least able to resist the attack. Hence it is that, in the east end of the metropolis, the direful Asiatic scourge revels almost unchecked, notwithstanding the efforts made to meet and counteract it. The better-circumstanced districts, however, are not altogether free from the visitation. Cases have occurred in Kensington, Marylebone, Islington, Holborn, Hackney, and other quarters, in sufficient numbers to show that, though the East-End may be most sorely afflicted, no part of the metropolis is beyond danger.

In that fact is embodied one of the lessons taught by cholera—namely, that it is the interest, as it is the duty, of the rich, the comfortable, the cleanly, the temperate classes to take heed for their less fortunate or less prudent neighbours, seeing that the influences which affect one portion of

the community must—in some measure, at least—affect all; and that the neglected misery, wretchedness, and foulness amid which the poor are suffered to live will produce results affecting the rich, by whom that neglect is perpetrated, and by whose supineness the misery and filth which sustain, if they do not generate, such scourges as cholera are allowed to continue. The rich cannot separate their fortunes from those of the poor. They cannot isolate themselves; they cannot draw a cordon between east and west, and say to the cholera and other diseases, "Thus far shalt thou come, but no further;" they cannot, in short, wrap themselves in the mantle of comparative safety which their superior position furnishes, and concern themselves not at all with what is going on around them. They are bound, for their own safety's sake, to do all that in them



THE NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION AT SHORBURYNESS: FIRING FOR THE RIFLE ASSOCIATION'S PRIZE.

lies to eradicate the causes of disease by mitigating the evils under which their poorer brethren labour; and that, not merely by fitful efforts of charity and fear-inspired temporary measures, but by continued, systematic, and methodical sanitary reforms. If they do not, their sins of omission will surely be visited upon their own persons or those of their families.

We admit, frankly and thankfully, that now, as on all needful occasions, the stream of sympathy and charity flows freely and bountifully from all ranks of society. The demand is great, but the response is generous. Downwards from her Majesty, who, with her usual kindness, has hastened to add her contribution to the funds for the relief of the suffering, all classes seem ready to give, and to give freely. All honour be accorded for the kindly spirit displayed. To relieve immediate suffering is the first and pre-eminently urgent duty in the present emergency; but when that is accomplished, as far it can be accomplished, another and a more weighty task remains to be undertaken. And that task is, to permanently remove, as far as human effort can, the sources from which cholera and other pestilences spring. These sources are well known; and a known evil, we are told, always admits of a remedy.

The point at which we are driving involves an onerous, but not an impracticable effort. Pestilence has its origin in the unwholesome conditions under which large masses of the community live. Those conditions must be rectified, whatever degree of labour, whatever amount of cost, the operation may involve. And the work must not be left, as it hitherto has been left, to the residents in the afflicted districts. It must be undertaken by the whole community. This matter does not merely concern the east end of London; it concerns the whole city. It is in vain to pass Acts of Parliament, and then say to the local authorities of foul and unhealthy districts, "Here is legal power—make yourselves clean." The local authorities have not the power, of themselves, to carry out the behest. To do so requires money, and money they have not, and cannot obtain. The tax-paying capacity of the poorer districts is already exhausted, and further imposts cannot be borne. The obvious course, therefore, is to spread the burden over the whole metropolis; to equalise all local taxation, and so make the rich districts aid the poorer in the labour of social purification; and that not merely in a temporary and limited way, but in carrying out a large, sweeping, and permanent sanitary reform. We have often insisted upon these doctrines before; we must continue to insist upon them; and we rejoice to find that we are now likely to receive aid from quarters whence opposition only has hitherto come. In proof of this, we may cite the proposal of Mr. Henley in the House of Commons the other night, that a cholera rate should be levied all over London, a proposal which was cheered by all parts of the Assembly, and a sensible and able article which appeared in the *Standard* on Wednesday, in which it is maintained that the affairs of the metropolis will never be properly managed, nor its sanitary condition be made satisfactory, till the work is undertaken and the burden borne by the whole city. That this work must be undertaken in earnest, and immediately, is another of the lessons the cholera visitation teaches.

And there is example for it. The metropolis, as a whole, has made a gigantic effort to rid itself, by the main drainage system, of the impurities which such a large agglomeration of human beings must needs generate. Why leave the work half done? Why not carry the principle further? Why not include poor rates and the rates necessary for accomplishing the complete purification of the whole city in the general taxation of all London? Nay, more, why not undertake, as a public duty, the task of providing a supply of pure and wholesome water to all the inhabitants of all parts of London? There is example, and encouraging example, for that too. New York, the greatest city of America, is so supplied; and among ourselves, we believe Glasgow and Manchester, and, to a certain extent, Liverpool and some other towns, are so provided. Why should not the same be done in London? The need is as great—nay, greater; and the means could more easily be made forthcoming. London is, perhaps, as a whole, the richest city in the world. She has borne without inconvenience the taxes needed to construct a system of thorough drainage. There is no reason why she should not, as a public work, provide herself with a wholesome and abundant supply of so vital a necessary as water. That element, it is known, has the strongest influence on the social well-being of man. Where it is pure and plentiful, he is healthy; where it is scanty and impure, he suffers from disease. The first duty of every community, therefore, is to provide itself with this most important article; and why, in such a city as London, the task should be left to the enterprise of private speculators, whose aim naturally is to take as much profit and give as little service as possible, it is difficult to understand. The water supply of London is notoriously insufficient and impure; and though certain districts are worse off than others, all suffer in some degree. The most, indeed the only, effectual remedy is to do like the Romans of old and the New Yorkers of the present day—make the supplying of the citizens with water a public duty, undertaken at general public cost, and on a scale commensurate with the public necessities. We have here one more lesson taught by the prevailing epidemic; and, if the result should be to accomplish what we have advocated, there will be good reason to say that out of evil cometh good.

THE NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

THE National Artillery Association have had a most successful meeting at Shoeburyness this year. The weather has not, to be sure, been altogether of a holiday-making character; but that, though it affected the character of the practice made, in no way inconvenienced volunteers who are desirous rather of acquiring some experience of real campaign life than of merely playing at soldiers. The muster has from the first been good, and the interest in the work in hand unflagging. The very inclemency of the weather and the strong winds which have occasionally prevailed have added a zest to the meeting which no amount of sunshine could have imparted to the proceedings. We give two Engravings this week from sketches made at Shoeburyness: one being a general view of the camp, and the other showing the firing for the prize of £50, given by the other and better-known volunteer association which holds its annual meeting on Wimbledon-common. This competition took place on Saturday last, and was shot for with smooth-bore guns. About fifty detachments fired, and the prize was won by the 1st Shropshire detachment, with a score of 29, made in 6 min. 40 sec., the points each round being 6, 6, 7, 4, 6, only one short of the maximum average for elevation and direction. The second detachment of the 2nd Middlesex was next, with 28, in 7 min. and 35 sec., and the first detachment of the same corps made 25 in 6 min. 45 sec., which is excellent average shooting. The 1st Cinque Ports detachment, who fired with the 68-pounder, made the good score of 26 in 6 min. 22 sec., being thereby within nearly 4 min. of the time allowed for this gun. The men of the 2nd Cinque Ports (Sandwich detachment) were highly complimented by Colonel Fisher for the excellent manner in which they had drilled, for they made 27 with the 32 pounder in 5 min. 36 sec. The "No. 1" of the detachment was Sergeant Mourilyan, and their officer Captain Emmerson; and the well-merited compliment paid to the men by the commandant seemed as great a distinction to them as though they had won the prize. The Duke of Wellington's prize, which was competed for on the previous day, was won by the 4th West York with 30 points; but the score was made under peculiar circumstances. The wind at the time of firing puffed the smoke in the line of fire, and one of the shots, which score the maximum at sea for elevation, could not be seen by the markers who give points for direction. Colonel Fisher ruled that the detachment should have the value of the shot for elevation and fire another for direction, and with this they scored three, which made their score the 30 which won.

Monday, however, was perhaps the most interesting day of the meeting, the Queen's prize, value £100, the greatest honour a detachment of this branch of the service can win, being shot for, and the interest was greatly enhanced by this being the first occasion on which volunteers have been allowed to shoot with the Armstrong gun. There were some difficulties in the way of all the efficient detachments firing for the prize, as the War Office, some time since, gave orders that Armstrong ammunition only sufficient for twenty detachments to fire should be served out; but General Peel, the Secretary of State for War, on being communicated with by Viscount Hardinge, Colonel Harcourt, and Colonel Clementson, on behalf of the council of the association, at once gave orders for all the ammunition required to be supplied to the volunteers, a course which put an end to the dissatisfaction which was felt throughout the camp, and which was shown in the officers appointing Lieutenant Leith, of the 1st Kent, to wait upon the council with an offer to make a subscription among the officers to pay for the extra ammunition needed. Early on Monday morning the detachments in camp who had entered for the prize were paraded and marched, battery by battery, and brigade by brigade, in a most soldierly manner, and headed by the 9th Kent band, to the Shoebury barrack yard to drill with the Armstrong before Colonel Fisher, the instructor of the station and commandant of the camp. The volunteers have been assiduous in their drill here under the Royal Artillery instructors for several days in their spare time, and they had made such good use of the instruction that there was not one detachment but "passed" the ordeal. Between the time when the batteries were dismissed from this competitive examination and the hour of parading for the shooting an incident occurred which it will be well to record, to show how heartily the volunteers generally enter into the duties of life in camp and the warm objection they have to any infringement of discipline. Two men of the 1st Tower Hamlets Volunteer Artillery who had been told off for guard duty neglected to report themselves, and when they returned they acted in a very insubordinate and disgraceful manner. It got wind in the camp that the men, to save themselves from the consequences of their bad conduct, had resolved to "clear out" of camp at once, and by the time they had packed their luggage the whole of the camp was ready to escort them out. Every man had a tin pail, a tin pan, a fryingpan, or some other instrument, and, "falling in" behind the two who had thus disgraced themselves, played them out, and the hubbub thus made by about 500 men was not a little heightened by the strenuous efforts of the band to hastily acquire proficiency in the "Rogue's March." At the entrance to the camp the procession was met by Captain McKown, the camp adjutant, who stopped the rough music, ordered the batteries back to the camp, and gave the two Tower Hamlets men into the custody of the guard. Colonel Fisher, the Commandant, coming up, the case was reported to him; and, without a word, he ordered the two men to be at once dismissed from the camp, which was carried into execution by the guard escorting them to the boundaries of the Government ground, which they will not be permitted again to enter. The general parade was then formed, and Colonel Fisher made some observations on the scene he had just before witnessed. He informed the volunteers that, when anyone did not perform his duty, or in any case of misconduct, the Commandant was the only one who had to administer justice; and he said that the "Rogue's March" ought not to have been played; but he knew that the demonstration had arisen out of the good feeling of all in camp and their earnest desire to see the regulations obeyed. The men were then marched off to the battery to compete. Two detachments fired at once with 40-pounder Armstrongs, which had been taken from the gun-shed by the Royal Artillerymen and placed in position for the competition. The weather was the worst there had been here, for it was cold and windy, and the detachments firing at the Sea-wall Battery were often stopped by the smoke from guns at the Old Battery. The ranges were 1500 and 2000 yards; the first shot at the shorter range, the second at the longer, and so on alternately; but no shot was to score anything unless a target-hit should be made. Ten minutes were allowed for the five shots, and for any time above this points would be deducted in the proportion of one point for every thirty seconds. To the left of the targets, which were, of course, out seaward over the Maplin Sands, the one a little under a mile distance, the other a little over, a van was stationed with the markers, and a mounted artilleryman galloped out after each shot to look at the target and give the value. The first detachment to fire at the Sea-wall Battery was the 1st Kincardine, to whom it fell by lot to thus head the firing. The first shot, though in excellent direction, scored nothing; the second was an outer, scoring 2; the third 6 (for an inner centre), the fourth 2, and the fifth 6, making 16, in 9 min. 9 sec., the time being scored by a "time of flight instrument," a marvel of horological industry and ingenuity. The first detachment of the 2nd Surrey then fired, and fired smartly, too, for the five shots were discharged in three minutes less than the time allowed; but this haste told badly. The No. 1 must have used greater haste than was requisite in laying the gun, for only one shot made a direct hit. The second detachment of the same corps followed, and though they fired just under time, they only scored an outer centre, giving them 4 points. The first detachment of the 1st Durham fired and made an equal score with the West York's first three detachments—namely, only hitting the target once. It is due to the men, however, to say that as the day wore on the wind and rain increased to an extent that made good firing, even if the competitors had been adepts with the rifled gun, a matter of impossibility. The second detachment of the 4th Cinque Ports, who fired in the Old Battery, made 16 points in the five shots—namely,

6, 2, 2, 4, 2, and the time of firing was only 6 min. 27 sec. The 1st Middlesex first detachment was smartest in point of time on the Sea-wall Battery, for they scored two good shots of inner centres, 12 points in all, in 6 min. 58 sec., but their other shots were not on. The competition was not concluded on Monday night, and the shooting was accordingly continued on Tuesday. At the close the 1st (C) Cinque Ports Volunteers were declared the winners with a score of 22 points. The six highest scores were as follow:—1st (C) Cinque Ports, 22 points; 1st (B) Cinque Ports, 16 points; 4th Cinque Ports, 18 points; 1st Kent, 18 points; 2nd Kent, 18 points; 1st Kincardine, 16 points. The 2nd Middlesex were the winners of the badges with a score of 29 points.

The association finished their proceedings at Shoeburyness on Wednesday, when the Earl of Longford, Under Secretary for War, presented the prizes.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor has suddenly returned to Paris from Vichy, and the event is looked upon as indicative of some important movement. His Majesty was not to have left Vichy till the 14th, but by this time he is safe at St. Cloud. The difficulty in the negotiations between Austria and Italy is considered as the most likely cause of the Emperor's return. But there are some who think the relations between Prussia and France are not of the most friendly nature, an idea which is, probably, suggested by the anti-Prussian tone of the inspired press. There is no doubt, however, that there are difficulties in the way of the settlement of an armistice between Austria and Italy. The *Moniteur* condescends to admit the fact, and says it arises from the demand of Italy that the preliminaries shall be settled on the basis of the *uti possidetis*, while Austria insists that the Italian troops shall retire into Venetia Proper.

The Paris correspondent of the *Express*, writing on Wednesday evening, assigns a very different reason for the Emperor's return to Paris from either of those mentioned above. He says:—

Although there undoubtedly is an "Italian difficulty," I believe I may safely state that the Emperor's sudden departure from Vichy to St. Cloud was not attributable to that or any other political reason. I am informed that his Majesty is unwell, and that Dr. Rayer having expressed an opinion that the Vichy waters were doing him no good, it was thought advisable that he should come to Paris for further advice. It is stated that he performed the journey lying on a mattress, but this may very possibly be a false rumour. The moment he arrived at St. Cloud Drs. Nelaton and Ricord were sent for to meet his ordinary medical advisers in consultation. It was this news, more than anything political, which produced the further fall at the Bourse; though, for obvious reasons, the money articles of the evening papers only allude to it by saying that there were various alarming rumours. No less than ten special messengers galloped between St. Cloud and Paris to-day.

The omission in the King of Prussia's speech of any allusion to the mediation of France between Austria and Prussia has caused much irritation in Paris, where a strong anti-Prussian feeling is generating. M. Drouyn de Lhuys, in distributing the prizes of the Paris public schools, spoke of the Emperor as the presiding genius who, in the midst of storms, restores peace and serenity. With these views of the benefits rendered by French mediation the reticence of the King of Prussia will probably be as unpalatable to the Emperor as it certainly is to the public.

The French Government lately gave orders for the purchase of a large number of horses, and it advertised the other day for a very large amount of saltpetre. These circumstances have given rise to rumours of warlike intentions on the part of France.

The *Courrier du Dimanche* has been suppressed by Imperial decree. An article from the brilliant and satirical pen of M. Prevost-Paradol is put forth as the reason for this severe measure. The real cause is probably to be found in the fact that a short time ago, when some heavy censures were being levelled against the press in Paris, the *Courrier du Dimanche* republished without comment the protest of the Paris journalists against a repressive measure of Charles X. That protest was the beginning of the revolution which drove Charles from the throne and led to the installation of Louis Philippe.

ITALY.

The suspension of hostilities between Austria and Italy has been prolonged for twenty-four hours—namely, until four a.m. on the 11th (this day). The Italian troops in Venetia are being concentrated in defensive positions. The King has appointed Count Barral and General Menabrea Plenipotentiaries for Italy at the conference to be held at Prague for the conclusion of peace.

A Royal decree has been issued at Florence ordering a national loan of 350,000,000 lira. The issue price will be 95 per cent, and will be payable in six instalments, extending from Oct. 8, 1866, until April 1, 1867. It will bear interest on the nominal value at the rate of 6 per cent, of which 5 per cent will be paid by coupon and 1 per cent in prizes. The great majority of the communes and provinces have already declared their willingness to undertake to raise their proportion of the amount required for the new national loan. A similar course is expected to be taken in the other provinces.

SPAIN.

A Ministerial circular has been published, addressed to the clergy, calling upon them to relieve the penury of the Treasury by voluntarily relinquishing part of their salary.

HUNGARY.

Several members of the Deak party have held a conference, at which it was resolved to assume a more decided attitude in the Diet.

PRUSSIA.

The Government of Prussia has positively declined the proposition of Russia for a congress of the Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Vienna.

An armistice has been concluded between Wirttemberg and Prussia.

The Prussian soldiers who were recently billeted on the inhabitants of Frankfurt have now all been removed to the barracks. The town is much quieter.

The Municipality of Berlin presented a congratulatory address to the King on Sunday. His Majesty expressed his thanks in reply, and pointed out that Prussia had not only drawn the sword for her independence, but also for the reorganisation of Germany. "The first," said the King, "has been assured, and the latter may, with the help of God, be also obtained. Everything promises a happy future for Prussia, as an honourable and lasting peace is imminent."

RUSSIA.

For the second time we are told that great enthusiasm prevails at St. Petersburg in anticipation of the arrival of the American squadron. The relations of Russia with the United States were never more friendly than they are at the present time. The South German States have appealed to Russia for her friendly intervention at the Court of Berlin, but she can render them no assistance.

AMERICA.

We have intelligence from New York, through the ordinary channels, to the 1st inst.

A riot had taken place in New Orleans in consequence of the re-assembling of the Convention of 1864. Thirty-one negroes and one white man were killed, and several white men wounded. General Sheridan had re-established martial law in that city.

The House of Representatives had adopted a resolution requesting the President to urge the Canadian authorities to release the Fenians captured in Canada, and also to abandon the Federal prosecutions against the Fenians if compatible with public interest. The report of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs recommends a revision of the neutrality laws, and declares that England has given America no cause to respect her sense of justice or regard for right. It also expresses strong sympathy for the Fenians. The Committee reported a bill which the House of Representatives passed unanimously, repealing the stringent provisions of the neutrality laws, and modifying the penalties for their violation. The bill provides that the law shall not be construed so as to prevent the sale of

American ships and steamers and war ammunition to the inhabitants of other countries or Governments not at war with the United States, and repeals the Acts requiring the owners and consignees of armed vessels departing from America to give bonds for good conduct, and the Act commanding collectors of Customs to seize and detain vessels whenever they shall have cause to suspect they intend acts of hostility against other Governments. Numerous prominent Fenians were on the floor watching the passing of the Bill. A communication from Mr. Seward was read to the House stating that the representation desired by the House concerning the Fenian prisoners will be made to the British Government. Mr. Seward quoted a letter from himself to Sir Frederick Bruce in June last, in which he expressed the hope that the customary administrative law would be tempered with special forbearance and clemency by the Canadian authorities.

The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives had reported that there is probable cause to believe that Mr. Davis was privy to the assassination of President Lincoln. The Committee recommended a further investigation and speedy trial.

Farragut had been created an Admiral, and General Dix had been appointed United States Minister to the Hague.

The Fenian Generals Sweeny, Spear, and Meehan had been released on bail at St. Albans.

President Johnson had permitted the assembly of the Texan Legislature.

The cholera was somewhat abating in New York and the neighbourhood.

THE PRELIMINARIES OF PEACE.

The Gazette of Vienna of the 3rd of August publishes the following as the text of the preliminaries of peace:—

TREATY OF PRELIMINARY PEACE.

Their Majesties the Emperor of Austria and King of Prussia, animated with the desire to restore to their countries the benefits of peace, have, with that view, and in order to fix the preliminaries of peace, named Plenipotentiaries—viz.

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, Count Aloisius Karyoli and Baron Adolph von Brenner Felsach;

And his Majesty the King of Prussia, his President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Otto, Count von Bismarck-Schönhausen, who, after having exchanged their full powers, found to be in good and due form, have agreed on the following fundamental acts as bases of the peace to be concluded without delay:—

Art. 1. With the exception of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, the territory of the Austrian monarchy remains intact. His Majesty the King of Prussia engages to withdraw his troops from the Austrian territories occupied by them, after peace is concluded, under reserve of the arrangements to be made at the time of the definite conclusion of peace for the guarantee of the payment of the war indemnity.

Art. 2. His Majesty the Emperor of Austria recognises the dissolution of the Germanic Confederation such as it has hitherto existed, and gives his assent to a new organisation of Germany without the participation of the empire of Austria. His Majesty promises equally to recognise the closer union which will be founded by his Majesty the King of Prussia to the north of the line of the Maine, and declares his consent to the German States south of that line contracting a union, whose national bonds with the confederation of North Germany will be the object of an ulterior understanding between the two parties.

Art. 3. His Majesty the Emperor of Austria transfers to his Majesty the King of Prussia all the rights which the Peace of Vienna of Oct. 20, 1864, had recognised in him over the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, with this reserve, that the population of the northern districts of Schleswig will be anew united to Denmark, if they express the desire of a freely-given vote.

Art. 4. His Majesty the Emperor of Austria engages to pay to his Majesty the King of Prussia the sum of forty millions of thalers, to cover a portion of the expense which the war has occasioned to Prussia; but from this sum is to be deducted the amount of the indemnity for war expenses which his Majesty the Emperor of Austria has still the right of exacting from the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, in virtue of art. 12 of the treaty of peace of Oct. 20, 1864, before cited, say fifteen millions of thalers, besides five millions, as the equivalent of the expense of maintaining the Prussian army borne by the countries of Austria occupied by that army until the conclusion of peace.

Art. 5. Conformably to the desire expressed by his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, his Majesty the King of Prussia declares himself ready to leave subsisting, at the time of the modifications which must take place in Germany, the territorial condition of the kingdom of Saxony in its actual extent, reserving to himself, on the other hand, to regulate in detail, by a special treaty of peace with his Majesty the King of Saxony, the questions relative to the share of Saxony in the expenses of the war, as well as the future position of the kingdom of Saxony in the confederation of the north of Germany. On the other hand, his Majesty the Emperor of Austria promises to recognise the new organisation which the King of Prussia will establish in the north of Germany, including the territorial modifications which will be the consequence of it.

Art. 6. His Majesty the King of Prussia engages to decide his Majesty the King of Italy, his ally, to give his approbation to the preliminaries of peace, and to the armistice based on these preliminaries, from the time that, by a declaration of his Majesty the Emperor of the French, the Venetian kingdom shall have been put at the disposal of his Majesty the King of Italy.

Art. 7. The ratifications of the present Convention will be exchanged at Nikolsburg in the space of two days at latest.

Art. 8. As soon as the ratification of the present Convention shall have been effected and exchanged, their Majesties the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia will name Plenipotentiaries who will meet in a place to be afterwards agreed on to conclude peace upon the basis of the present preliminary treaty, and agree upon the conditions of detail.

Art. 9. To this effect the contracting States, after having settled these preliminaries, will conclude, for the Austrian and Saxon armies on the one part and the Prussian army on the other part, an armistice whose detailed conditions in a military point of view will be immediately fixed. That armistice will date from the 2nd of August, the day to which the present suspension of arms will be prolonged.

An armistice will be at the same time concluded here with Bavaria, and General Manteuffel will be charged to conclude with the kingdom of Württemberg and the grand duchies of Baden and Hesse-Darmstadt, after these States propose it, an armistice commencing the 2nd of August, and based upon the state of military possession of the moment.

In testimony of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention, and affixed to it the seal of their arms.

Done at Nikolsburg, the 26th day of July, 1866.

KAROYI, M.P. BISMARCK, M.P.

BRENNER, M.P.

The undersigned, the Austrian Field Marshal Count von Degenfeld and the Prussian General Baron von Moltke, after having been authorised by his Majesty the Emperor of Austria and his Majesty the King of Prussia, and after having exchanged their full powers, found to be in good and due form, conclude an armistice on the following conditions:—

The preliminaries of peace having been signed to day, hostilities cease between the Austrian and Saxon troops on the one part and the Prussian troops on the other part, and the 2nd of August begins an armistice of four weeks. The following arrangements will be in force pending the duration of this armistice:—

Sec. 1. Pending the duration of the armistice the Prussian troops preserve a line limited on the west by the line Eger, Pilsen, Tabor, Newhaus, Zlabitz, Znaim, these points included. On the south the limit is formed by the Thaya as far as its embouchure in the March, then by that latter river ascending as far as Napajedl, and finally by a direct line drawn from this latter point to Oderberg.

2. A space of two miles round the fortress of Olmitz, and a space of one Austrian mile round the fortresses of Josephstadt, Königgrätz, and Theresienstadt are not to be occupied by the Prussian army; and the said fortresses may draw their provisions from these limits. A military road, with stages, from Olmitz to Meseritz and Weiskirchen, traversing the Prussian limits, is put at the disposal of the fortress, and cannot be occupied by the Prussian army.

3. The military roads with stages—Melissau, Scheitelsdorf, Wittingau, Tabor on the one part; and Malatschka, Skalitz, Napajedl on the other part, are at the disposal of the Prussian troops, with a border of occupation of two miles, to permit them to go from their positions to occupy the border fixed in section 1.

4. The Prussian troops are at liberty to use, within the limits of the border fixed in section 1, and pending the duration of the armistice, all the ways of communication by land, by water, by railways; and the border fixed for the fortresses is not to be an obstacle for these communications. The section of the railway Pressau-Triblau is excepted from these arrangements, inasmuch as it traverses the limits of the fortress of Olmitz.

5. The Austrian troops are held bound not to pass the line of demarcation fixed the 22nd of July before the last of the Prussian troops have repassed the Thaya. The Imperial Government will be immediately informed of the moment when this passage shall have been effected.

6. The sick in the portions of territory evacuated by the Prussian troops will remain in these localities, as well as the doctors and employés in care of them. In addition, the assistance of the authorities and their maintenance and means of transport are assured them on the part of Austria. No obstacle will be offered, either during or after the armistice, to their conveyance to their country, with which, besides, the Prussian Government will occupy itself as soon as possible.

7. The keep of the Prussian troops is a charge upon the provinces occupied by them. Contributions in money will not be levied by the Prussians.

8. The property magazines and stores of the State will not be seized by the Prussians—in so far, at least, as the latter have not been taken possession of before the commencement of the armistice.

9. The Imperial and Royal Governments will see that the civil employés return as soon as possible to their posts, to co-operate in the maintenance of the Prussian army.

In the interval from the 27th of July to the 2nd of August the Austro-Saxon troops will keep everywhere half a mile distant from the line of demarcation fixed on the 22nd of this month, in so far as that line is situated on the left bank of the Danube; on the other hand, the before-stated line of demarcation is not to be passed on the part of the Prussians.

Done at Vienna, the 26th of July, 1866.

COUNT VON DEGENFELD.

BARON MOLTKE.

It seems that the Austrians are marching troops once more to the South, and have actually sent 90,000 men, so that they may operate either by way of Trent or on Cialdini's left flank. This, if true, looks very much as if the negotiations for an armistice with Italy were not expected to have a favourable result. Italy is represented as anxious to secure Trent and part at least of Istria, and these Austria is not disposed to give up. It will be seen by the terms of peace between Austria and Prussia that it is stipulated that the only territory the former shall give up shall be that of Lombardo-Venetia. Another article states that Prussia undertakes, as soon as the session of this territory to Italy is complete, to "decide" the King of Italy to accept preliminaries of peace. This can hardly mean that, if Italy refuses to be satisfied with less than Istria and what she calls her "natural frontiers" in the Tyrol, Prussia will turn against her. Yet on the face of the document that seems to be involved. In all probability, however, the question will not be tried out. Italy will scarcely persevere with demands which meet with no countenance from her allies and friends.

OPENING OF THE PRUSSIAN CHAMBERS.

The opening of the Prussian Chambers by the King in person took place at noon on the 5th inst. The following is the full text of his Majesty's speech:—

Illustrious, noble, and loyal Gentlemen of both Houses of the Diet,—Now that I see assembled around me the representatives of the country, my heart impels me to express first of all from this place my own and my people's thanks for God's gracious goodness, which has assisted Prussia, amid heavy but successful sacrifices, not only in averting from our frontiers the dangers of hostile attack, but in enabling the army of the country, by a rapid career of victory, to add fresh laurels to its inherited fame and to smooth the course for the national development of Germany.

Accompanied by the visible blessing of God, the part of the nation capable of bearing arms enthusiastically obeyed the summons to the sacred struggle for the independence of the Fatherland. Our heroic army, supported by few but faithful allies, advanced from success to success, from victory to victory, in the east as in the west. Much precious blood has been shed; the country mourns the loss of many brave men who died the death of the hero in the flush of triumph, until our standards waved along a line extending from the Carpathians to the Rhine. It will be for the Government and the representatives of the people, in united co-operation, to bring to maturity the fruit that must be gathered from this sanguinary seed, to prevent its having been scattered in vain.

Loyal Gentlemen of both Houses of the Diet,—My Government is able to look with satisfaction upon the financial position of the State. Careful foresight and conscientious economy have placed it in a position to overcome the great financial difficulties which have resulted as a natural consequence from the circumstances of the present time. Although material outlay has been imposed upon the Treasury during recent years by the war with Denmark, it has been found possible to meet the expenses hitherto incurred in the present war from the State revenue and the existing balances, without imposing any other burden upon the country than that of furnishing the supplies in kind for war purposes it is bound to provide by law. I hope the more assuredly that the means required for the successful termination of the war, and for the payment of the supplies in kind, while maintaining order and security in the finances, will be readily granted by you.

An agreement with the representatives of the country as to the settlement of the Budget has not been able to be effected in the last few years. The State outlay incurred during this period is, therefore, destitute of that legal basis which, as I again acknowledge, the Budget can alone receive through the law. Art. 99 of the Constitution ordains it annually to be agreed upon between my Government and the two Houses of the Diet. Although my Government has nevertheless carried on the Budget for several years without this legal basis, this has only been done after conscientious examination, and in the conviction, in accordance with duty, that the conduct of a settled administration, the fulfilment of legal obligations towards public creditors and officials, the maintenance of the army and of the State establishments, were questions vital to the existence of the State, and that the course adopted, therefore, became one of those inevitable necessities which, in the interest of the country, a Government cannot and must not hesitate to adopt.

I trust that recent events will in so far contribute to effect the indispensable understanding that an indemnity for having carried on the administration without a law regulating the Budget—application for which will be made to the representatives—will readily be granted to my Government, and the hitherto existing conflict be therewith finally, and the more securely, brought to a conclusion, as it may be expected that the political position of the Fatherland will admit an extension of the frontiers of the State and the establishment of a united federal army under the leadership of Prussia, the costs of which will be borne in equal proportions by all members of the confederation. The bills required in this respect for the convocation of a popular representation of the Federal State will be laid before the Diet without delay.

Gentlemen,—You feel with me, the entire Fatherland feels, the high importance of the moment that brings me once more among you. May Providence bless Prussia as graciously in future as it has visibly blessed the immediate past! May God grant it!

The first sitting of the Chamber of Deputies took place on Monday, when General Stavenhage, the senior member, delivered a speech eulogising the King, the Government, and the army, and declaring that the deputies were ready to co-operate in securing the greatness and liberty of Prussia and Germany. He concluded by calling for three cheers for the King.

SWIMMING-MATCH IN THE SERPENTINE.—On Saturday last the race for the silver challenge cup, presented by Mr. John Laty, the honorary secretary of the London Swimming Club, took place in the Serpentine. The starting was from the grating end to Kensington Bridge—1000 yards; half-past six being the time specified. Messrs. W. Adams and W. Cole only appeared at the starting-place. The two competitors started very evenly and kept together for rather more than 100 yards, when Adams began to take the lead, which he gradually increased, and won very easily.

FENIAN RAID ON THE SHETLAND ISLES.—On Sunday five steamers, heavily armed and well manned, without colours, entered Uist Sound, Shetland, and with small boats carried off a quantity of cattle and sheep. The inhabitants generally fled, but some resisted, and two were shot in the scuffle. The marauders, who are supposed to be Fenian pirates, returned in the afternoon and captured four of the principal inhabitants. Three were liberated for money and bond for £1000. The fourth was carried off as a hostage. Some shots were fired at the church and other buildings as the steamers left in the direction of Lerwick.—*Pail Mail Gazette.*

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS AND THE LIFE-BOAT CAUSE.—The Ancient Order of Foresters has just sent to the National Life-boat Institution, as a contribution for the current year, the munificent sum of £343 1s. 11d., in aid of the support of their life-boat stationed in Cardigan Bay and of the general purposes of the Life-boat Institution. Altogether the order, to which upwards of 300,000 persons belong, has contributed to the institution, through the principal and able secretary, Mr. Shawcross, £689 14s. 2d. The contributions have varied from a penny to one shilling from members of this great body, and a more substantial token of sympathy and support for a great and national work has, probably, never before been recorded in the annals of any benevolent institution. It should be remembered that the Life-boat Society contributes every year to the saving of between 600 and 700 lives from shipwrecks. Probably many of the persons thus snatched from a watery grave are members of this beneficent and popular order, which accomplishes so much in mitigating the sufferings of its members, their widows, and orphans.

THE ORIGIN OF THE NEEDLE-GUN.—The Builder says:—"It has been stated that the principle of firing a gun by means of a needle suddenly penetrating an explosive substance fixed in the cartridge was invented by Mr. John Hanson, of Folley Hill Leadworks, Huddersfield, who completed his invention by constructing a breech-loader for his own amusement and service in rock-shooting. Mr. Hanson had a friend, a gunsmith—Mr. Golden, of Huddersfield—to whom, it is said, he gave his invention, which was patented by him, in 1843, in the names of Golden and Hanson—five years before it was made public by the Prussian Government. Mr. Golden, at the request of the King of Prussia, forwarded two of Mr. Hanson's guns to him so far back as 1846, two years before it became public." The Dublin Daily Express claims the honour of the invention of the "Prussian" needle-gun and its peculiar cartridge for Ireland. The original inventor, it states, was Captain James Whitley, of the 9th Foot, who, in 1823, had a breech-loading needle-gun constructed by Messrs. Truelock, of that city, and took the preliminary steps to secure a patent for it. He submitted his invention to Government, but was treated with such coldness and indifference that he became disheartened, and allowed his invention to remain in obscurity.

OLD ELIZABETHAN HOUSE IN GRAVEL-LANE.

It is no longer "Time the Destroyer," in any direct sense, except it be taken for granted that time is really money, and that the two terms are convertible; for money has become the real destroyer—money, as represented by railway and other companies, which rules with tyrannous exaction over our hearths and homes.

The pages of newspapers—and especially those of illustrated newspapers—will soon be the only available records of many a building which could boast either historical associations or local importance; and scarcely a week passes in which we have not to account for the final destruction and disappearance of some venerable edifice sacrificed, if not to the public advantage, at all events to the advantage of promoters and boards of directors. We are not asserting either condition in reference to the curious old building of which we this week publish an Engraving; and, indeed, we have been at present unable to discover any historical or local associations which made it peculiarly notorious. But a picture of its last remains is worth preserving, not only on account of its singularity in such a neighbourhood, but also because it was one of the very few Elizabethan houses remaining in the metropolis. The whole edifice has now been demolished, together with the surrounding buildings, above which its curious observatory tower, with its surrounding balcony, appeared like a landmark of some peculiar district, its meaning in relation to which seems to have been long forgotten.

THE TUILERIES GARDENS.

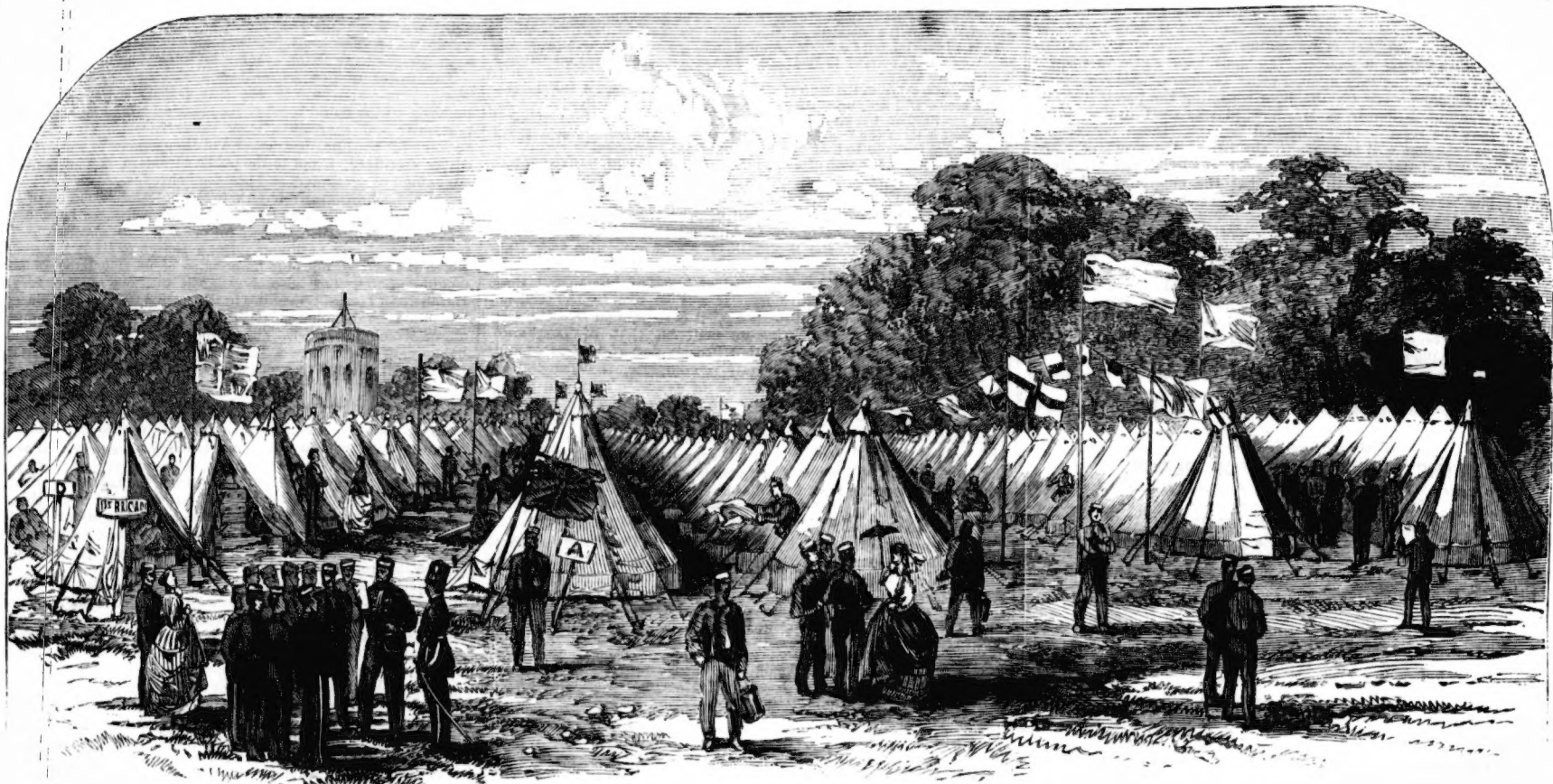
In England, the enemies of the people's parks, the people's gardens, and even the people's homes, are railways and gas, as well as some other joint-stock companies, which, continuing to gain extra powers and almost irresponsible authorities from Parliament, laugh at law and smile derisively at equity. If anyone should doubt this, they have only to examine the new clause granted to one of the metropolitan railway schemes, which forbids any damages higher than £100 to be claimed by any passenger for death or injury by accident, no matter from what cause that accident may arise.

Whether they manage those things better in France or not, it is quite certain that, in the threatened destruction of some of the public gardens by M. Haussmann's reconstructive schemes, the popular voice has made itself heard, and the hand of the innovator is stayed. Of all these charming resorts, which the Parisians so much love, perhaps the garden of the Tuileries is the most popular and the most beautiful; and the present season has added to its already numerous attractions. There a company of gardeners are employed to keep the flower-beds immaculate and to preserve the velvet-like softness of the turf and borders; for which purpose they go down upon their knees, and, with gardening-shears, remove every faded stalk and superfluous blade, as though they were operating on some fine fabric. Even in the open space, where the fine band plays and chairs are hired beneath the gloriously spreading-trees (chairs which are afterwards built into castles and fortifications by the urchins who play at battles in the waste ground further on), the grass and the paths are well preserved; while, in the remoter alleys and walks, the scene is delightful, lying so near as it does to the life and energy of a great, sparkling, dining, dancing city.

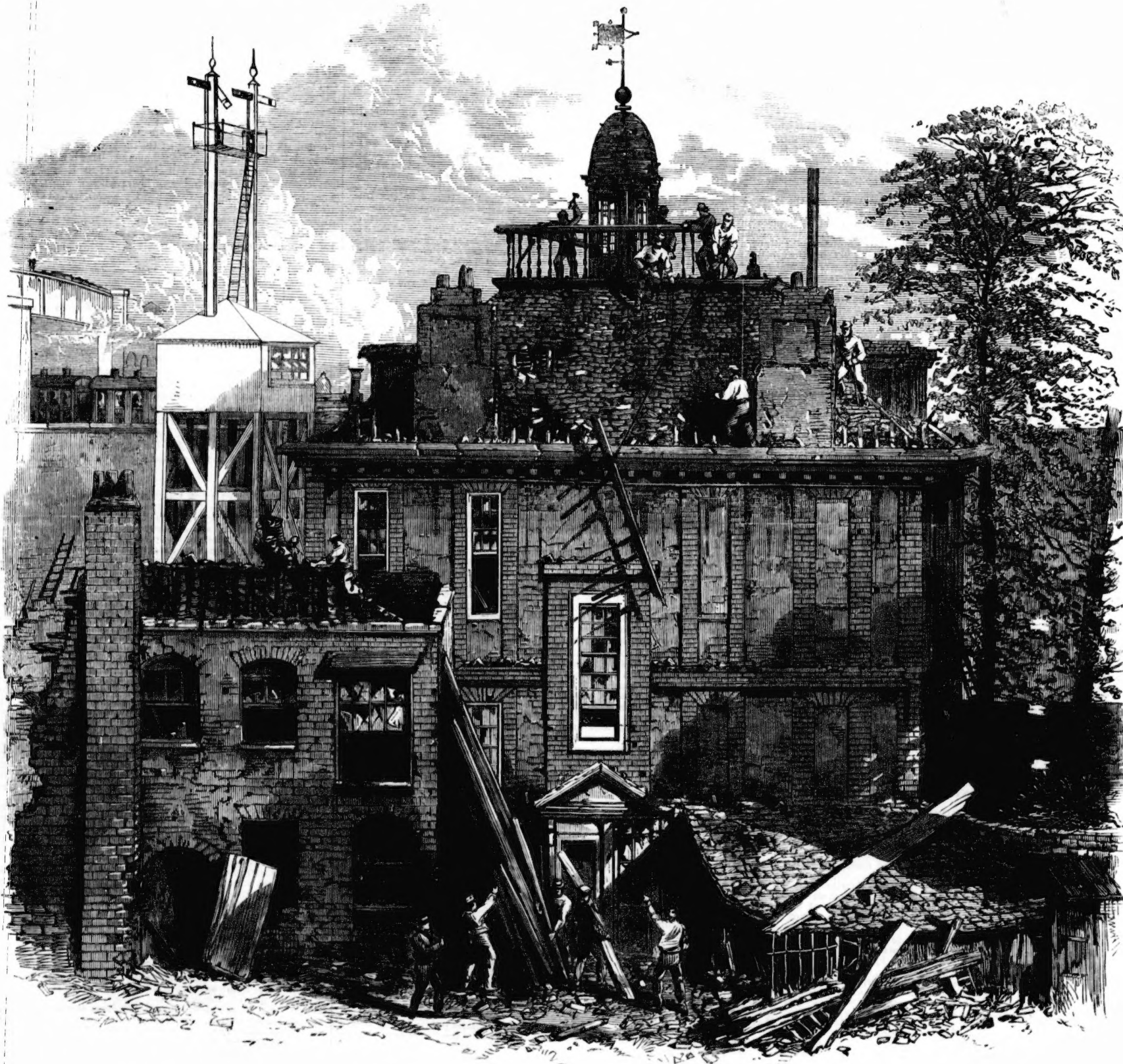
Sitting there, a little away from the well-dressed mingling of visitors who promenade in the more open alleys, one may easily fall a dreaming to the soft waltz melody so charmingly played by the Imperial musicians; for the history of the Tuileries is the later history of France and of those revolutions the scars and brands of which even M. Haussmann has scarcely succeeded in erasing from the public monuments and the very houses in the streets. Nay, one may go further back still, to the time when Catherine de Médicis commenced that superb palace, which she intended should eclipse every other in France, on the spot occupied by the tile kilns, which, after all, gave their plebeian name to the Royal building. Had it not been that the palace was discovered to be in the parish of St. Germain, and that St. Germain, so the astrologers had predicted, would be fatal to her, the Queen might have finished the work instead of leaving it to Henry IV., Louis XIII., and Louis XIV., who, in their turn, never quite carried out the idea of connecting the two great masses of building, but left it to Napoleon I., who was too busy to attend to it, so that its fulfilment came to the present Emperor, who has made it his official residence. In a previous Number we have given some particulars both of the earlier and more modern glories of this superb palace, and we have now only to mention that the garden wherein we are supposed to be sitting was laid out first by Lenôtre, the head gardener of Louis XIV., but that it is now entirely remodelled, so that its 2250 ft. of length and 990 ft. of breadth have sufficed for many experiments. For our part, we like that intermingling of flower beds and fountains and statues, and above all, we love that sunny southern side known as La Petit Provence. But it is all beautiful; the shady plantation on the west, the old orange-tree walk on the river terrace, overlooking the Place de la Concorde and the Champs Elysées, and that great human garden where rosy bonnes bloom amidst clusters of chubby children, and where elderly French flâneurs sit reading the latest permitted information in their damp morning papers. This is the time really to enjoy the gardens in their natural aspect. Later in the day, and at five o'clock, when the band takes up its station and begins to tune, Nature gives place to art, and innocence to fashion.

REFORM MEETING IN THE GUILDHALL.—A working man's meeting in favour of reform was held in the Guildhall on Wednesday evening, the Lord Mayor presiding. Long before the time for commencing the business of the meeting the great hall was crowded to excess. The people unable to obtain admission filled the whole of the spacious square in front of the Guildhall, and stretched down into King-street and the other adjoining streets. The speeches were all marked by great earnestness. Outside the hall two meetings were held, and there resolutions were passed affirming the necessity for reform. The proceedings were of the most orderly character.

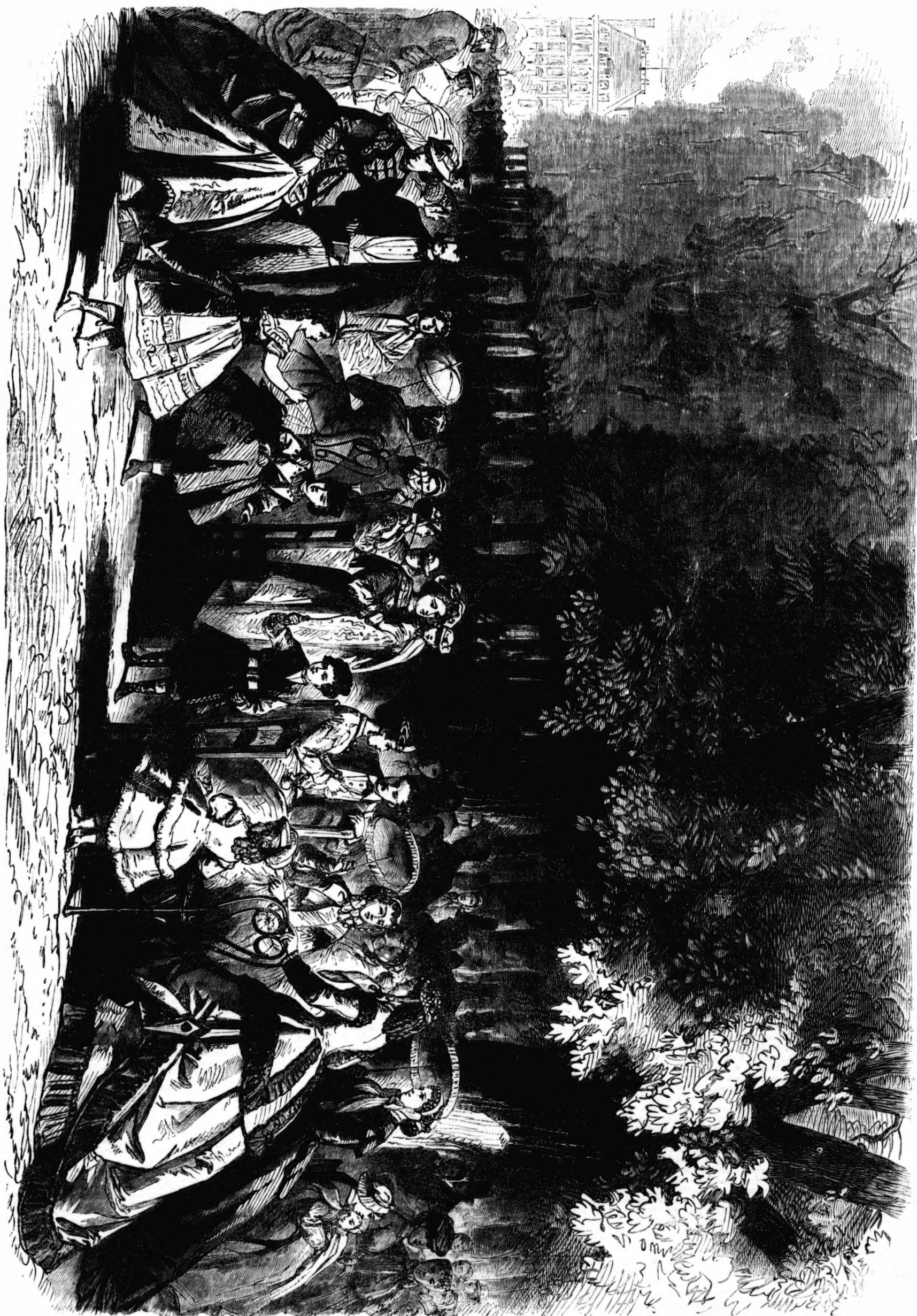
A PRIVATEER IN THE FAROE SEA.—Vessels which arrived last week from the Faroe Islands brought news of an unusual and suspicious gathering there of ships whose purposes do not appear to be peaceful, nor their proceedings lawful. The Danish vessel Lark has brought to Leith, under cover to Mr. Berry, the Danish Consul-General there, despatches from the Governor of Faroe, for immediate transmission to the Government of Copenhagen. These despatches are understood to convey the report of the Governor in regard to the recent arrival at a small station on one of the islands of four ships, under English colours, three of which seemed to intend to discharge their cargoes into the fourth—a large vessel called the Tornado, very light, having all the appearance of a man-of-war, and actually pierced for, it is said, fourteen guns. The coastguardman at the station, however, having at once sent information to Thorshavn, the chief town of the islands, the Governor proceeded to the spot with all his available force of police, removed the largest and most suspicious-looking of the vessel to Thorshavn, and prevented or prohibited the unloading of the others. The captain of the Lark states that the three subsidiary vessels, thus baulked of their purpose, had quitted the islands; the fourth—the Tornado, we understand—arrived in Leith Roads about ten days ago, and discharged her crew, among whom were several Danes. It is believed that she was designed to prey as a privateer on Spanish commerce; and that the three ships which met her at Faroe carried guns and munitions of war for her equipment, and were probably to share in her work. From this account of the affair, the intentions of the originators of the enterprise appear to have been frustrated by the prompt action of the Governor of Faroe; but another vessel, the Spy, which arrived at Lerwick on Tuesday, brings a conflicting account, which may be reconciled with the other by the supposition that the Lark sailed from the islands at a later date than the Spy. According to the master of the Spy, there were at the islands eight steamers, which appeared to have rendezvoused there from various ports in England, one having cleared for Lisbon, another for Gibraltar, another having left Hamburg. The steamers were laden with warlike stores, and at least one of them was iron-plated. It further appears from the master's statement that the strange vessels boldly entered Thorshavn, the officers of the largest, indeed, having enticed him on board and almost forced him to pilot their vessel into that port, his own being taken in tow. The crew of the largest stranger had mutinied at Thorshavn, and refused to weigh anchor; and the Governor was seeking to induce the expedition to quit Danish waters, though, when the Spy left, without success. We do not know the respective dates at which the Lark and the Spy left Faroe; so that, though it seems likely that the account brought by the latter is an early and exaggerated version of the incidents reported by the former, it is not impossible that, in reality, the attempt to violate the neutrality of Faroe had been renewed.—*Scotsman.* The vessel has now arrived at Leith, where a number of the crew left her; but as she has nothing on board of an illegal nature, she has not been interfered with by the authorities.



ENLARGED CAMP OF THE NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION AT SHOEBURYNESS.



ELIZABETHAN HOUSE LATELY PULLED DOWN IN GRAVEL-LANE.



THE TUILERIES GARDENS, PARIS.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 290.

FIRE THE FAGGOT!

"WHAT fiery zealot have we here, ranting so passionately and raising the dander of the Irish Roman Catholics to such a pitch?" said we, as we entered the House one night last week, when the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act was under discussion. The face of the gentleman was new to us: we were not sure that we had ever seen him before. A moment's reflection, however, suggested to us that this could be no other than the new Irish Attorney-General, Mr. Walsh. He has but just come into Parliament as member for the University of Dublin, vice Whiteside; and this is his first appearance on the Parliamentary stage. Who he is—that is, what is his history—we know not. He had a father and a mother, no doubt, like other mortals; but we know nothing of them. He told us in his speech that he was educated at Trinity College, Dublin; and he further revealed that he is an Orangeman, hot and strong. And this is all we know of his past history and his present position—Irish Attorney-General, educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and an Orangeman, hot and strong. But there is one event in the future that we can venture, however, to foretell. If he should carry on as he began that night he will soon wreck his ship. Clearly, he knows nothing of the storms, and currents, and rocks of this latitude, or he would not venture to carry so much sail; nor of the enemies around, or he would not thus ostentatiously hoist the Orange colours at his masthead. Orangism is not popular here; the Conservatives, almost to a man, would fight to the death for the Irish Establishment; but even to them Orangism is hateful, and the "glorious memory," offensive; whilst the Liberals—at least, the great majority of them—are of opinion that the Irish Church is a dangerous nuisance. The style of the Attorney-General's speaking got him fame and applause perhaps at Dublin, Orangemen being his hearers. It is the very style of the Orange zealots when, with

Fire in each eye, and papers in each hand,
They rave, and cite, and madden through the land.

But here it only provokes wrath or laughter. Thus, when the learned gentleman, culminating to the height of his great argument, shouted out "You would despoil the Church!" expecting roars of applause, there came shouts of laughter and assenting "Hear, hear!" as much as to say, "To be sure, that is what we would do." Only fancy! Was there ever a more mortifying contretemps? Instead of applause, laughter; and instead of indignant denial, hearty assent. Poor Mr. Attorney-General! How much he has to learn! In Dublin University "Protestant Ascendancy" is a famous toast, which, whenever it is given, evokes tremendous cheers—three times three and one cheer more, besides volleys of Kentish fire; but here it has long since been voted a nuisance, and one can foresee that at no distant day this Protestant ascendancy will be levelled to the ground. The learned gentleman, then, had better haul down his Orange flag and shift his tack, or the felon winds and other foes will drive him upon the rocks, as sure as fate. We had heard of this gentleman some week or two before he entered the House. "A very able man, Sir," said an Irish friend to us, "and a fine orator. He'll startle you, if he should be elected." But we have long since come to receive these rumours of coming Irish orators *cum grano salis*. In 1860 there came into the House a Mr. Macdonough, and he had been so heralded by loud blasts of Fame's trumpet, that when he first rose to address the House members rushed in from all parts of the building to hear him; but he did by no means justify his fame. "He went up like a rocket, and came down like a stick, barring the going up," as a witty Hibernian said. The fact is, and has long been known, Irish eloquence of the fervid sort is not suitable to the English House of Commons. Mr. Walsh may be a famous orator in Dublin; but he will not do here, if that speech was a fair specimen of his oratory. The best Irish speaker in the House is unquestionably Mr. Maguire. He, though, is rather too florid for us, and, when he attempts the sublime, is sometimes in danger of sliding into the ridiculous. But he is a good fellow, generous, kind, and unquestionably has talents of no mean order. He, therefore, always obtains a fair hearing, and is generally popular.

MR. McCULLAGH TORRENS.

Mr. William McCullagh Torrens, late William Torrens McCullagh—for the hon. member has lately transposed his name in this way—first entered the House of Commons, in 1847, for the Irish borough of Dundalk, and sat for that place till 1852. From the latter date till 1857 he was out of Parliament; but in 1857 he wooed and won the constituency of Yarmouth, and got placed at the head of the poll. But, alas! when a Committee came to examine the manner of his wooing, they had to declare that it was not according to rule, and therefore the connection must be dissolved; and once more Mr. McCullagh—for he was at the time Torrens McCullagh—was cast adrift; and he continued to be so, peering about to discover an entrance into the House, but finding none until 1865, when Mr. Cox, having behaved badly in the matter of Stansfeld and Mazzini and disgusted the free and independents of Finsbury, Mr. Torrens started for this populous borough, and by the most strenuous exertions of self—and, we must add, his wife, for it is said the lady contributed no little towards the victory which he gained—he was placed at the top of the poll, some 3400 above the once-popular Mr. Cox. Mr. Torrens was heralded into the House by the trumpet of Fame, blown loudly through all the Liberal papers, as a promising man. You see, Mr. Torrens is a literary man. He is the author of "The Industrial History of All Nations," "The Life of Sir James Graham," &c.; and it is but natural that literary men should puff one of their own guild. Mr. Torrens, though, did not do much to justify his reputation till Friday week. Either he had not the right topics to deal with or he did not choose the right time to handle them; perhaps he had both these misfortunes; and, in that case, no wonder that Mr. Torrens did not justify his reputation. For a dry subject introduced at an unseasonable hour—for instance, just as the members want to go to bed or to dinner—is sure to fall dead as a still-born child or as a doornail—whatever that may mean—upon the House. We have made up our mind that, if we should ever be in the House, we will never choose a dry statistical subject to make our début; and never attempt to address a hungry, or an angry, or a wearied House. "We in the House!" Extravagant notion, our readers may say. But why? Most gentle readers, there is a man in the House who only a few years ago was a clerk, with a salary of some £200 a year; there is another who in his youth wore wooden shoes; there is a third who lets houses, and sells houses, goods, and chattels by auction; and there is, or was, a member who for a time delved with a navvy's spade and trundled a barrow along a plank. Fortune twirls round her wheel much more rapidly now than she used to do, and after a much stranger fashion. If that promising little venture of ours in the "Universal Credit and Cosmopolitan Cash Company" (Limited) had turned up a prize, and brought us cash instead of "calls," we might, like aforesaid clerk, have deserted the desk, dropped our pen, and entered the House through some doghole of an Irish borough, "and wagged our paw," and perorated with the best of them there. "Qualifications!" our readers perhaps are whispering. Well, as to that, without boasting, we may say, though we could not hope to emulate the smart and ingenious and epigrammatic oratory of the leader of the House, we certainly should never utter such nonsense as he did on martial law, and get ourselves, as he did, knocked into a cocked hat by Mr. John Stuart Mill. Neither should we have collapsed, we are vain enough to fancy, as the Under-Secretary for the Colonies did, when he replied to the able speech of Mr. Charles Buxton on the Jamaica question; nor run amuck at the Irish Roman Catholics like the new Attorney-General, Mr. Walsh, who, on the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act, instead of conciliating his opponents by kindly words, not only hit them on the raw, but established new laws, and poured, as it were, vitriol into the wounds. But "the Universal Credit and Cosmopolitan Cash Company (Limited)," instead of paying us 500 per cent as it promised, and as we believed it would, fools that we were, has spent all our deposits and made "calls" for more; and all our brilliant prospects have vanished like a mirage. We must, therefore, stick to the pen; and

so we will return to Mr. William McCullagh Torrens. Mr. Torrens! then, on Friday morning week—better late than never—justified his fame; for on that day he made so masterly a speech upon the Extradition Treaty that, at a bound, he placed himself in the front rank of the debaters of the House. Mr. Torrens is a lawyer by profession, and he stated his case with all the clearness of an able advocate, and with none of the dryness and dullness of some of our advocates; but then he is not an English but an Irish lawyer, which makes a difference. Still, there is not much of the Hibernian about him. He has none of the Irish accent; his oratory is not wild and loose—like that of Whiteside, for example—the most unbridled talker that ever entered the House; nor like that of the new Irish Attorney-General, or a score of Irish talkers whom we could name. Mr. Torrens is generally calm, and seldom cold. Indeed, at times he was warm, earnest, and emphatic—his warmth and emphasis, though, being always well under control of his judgment, used to enforce and light up his argument, and never allowed to explode into mere declamation. Mr. Torrens had but a small audience to address; but, though small, it was select—fit audience, though few. Most of the Ministers were present, and notably Lord Stanley, who, as Foreign Minister, had charge of the bill; and the Attorney-General, whose duty it was to defend it. Then, on the other side were Gladstone, Sir Roundell Palmer, and Sir Robert Collier. The Extradition Treaty was agreed to by the late Government, and, of course, the law officers of the late Government must be present to see it well through the House. The effect of Mr. Torrens' speech was very flattering to him. From the first he held the attention of the House, and frequent murmurs of applause ran through the ranks of his friends behind. Mr. White, who sat close to Mr. Torrens, every now and then sent forth his well-known gruff, emphatic cheer. Mr. Ayrton looked approbation if he did not express it audibly. Mr. Ayrton is not given much to enthusiasm. Mr. John Stuart Mill, two tiers above the speaker, certainly nodded approval, and more than once or twice broke out into emphatic cheering. This must have been specially pleasant to Mr. Torrens; it was *laudari e laudato viro*—to be praised by a man deserving praise; and surely there can be no more valuable praise than this. But the most remarkable effect of Mr. Torrens' speech was that which it produced upon his opponents, the occupants of the Treasury and the front Opposition benches. It seemed to me, a "stranger," as I looked upon the scene, that these gentlemen were "surprised," to use a military word. They had not expected such an attack as this, and had not come with sufficient force to meet it. At first they listened but lazily. Sir Hugh Cairns and Sir Robert Collier jotted down a note or two, and Lord Stanley occasionally laid the same. But as the speaker went on piling up his argument, and getting warm to his work, and sending his shot into their ranks, they began to get excited, and, to keep up our figure, to see that they must look to their arms and get more guns into position—at least, so it struck a stranger. Lord Stanley whispered earnestly to Sir Hugh Cairns; books from the table were consulted and extracts made therefrom; then one of the underlings was dispatched to the library for more books; and it was much the same on the front Opposition bench. Sir Robert Collier was earnestly consulting Sir Roundell Palmer, and they, too, began to rummage the books for authorities and precedents. In short, Mr. Torrens had clearly put these noble and honourable officials into a most unofficial flutter for a time. However, these gentlemen certainly did, when they came to speak, succeed in toning down some of the strong lines and lurid lights which Mr. Torrens drew of what might happen if the bill should pass; and we were all of us more comfortable in our minds after they had spoken than we were before. Nevertheless, Mr. Torrens did good service. He did not stop the bill, but he showed the French Emperor that what he asked for, simple as it may appear to him, was granted grudgingly, and that he must expect no more. Moreover, ultimately Mr. Torrens succeeded in inserting a clause limiting the operation of the Treaty for a year, that we may see how it works. And here let our readers notice how much more soft to the touch, or squeezable, a weak Government is than a strong one. Lord Palmerston's Government would not have boded an inch.

OUR FAREWELL.

We have come now to the end of our labours. The Session, before our readers will get this paper, will be at an end. "Well," some will say, "it is a lost Session." But how so? We have a notion that nothing is ever lost. Nature has a use for everything in the world, and even out of seeming ill is ever educating good; and we believe that much more good than many can see at present will come out of what men call the futile labours of this Session. We did not get the Reform Bill passed, but who shall say that we have not prepared the way for a better? Perhaps when we come to look calmly back upon this matter we shall perceive that we were from the first hardly likely to carry a reform bill in one Session. We had to have two Parliaments and three Sessions before we could get the last Reform Bill passed. On the whole, then, we must decide that we have no reason to be dismayed that the bill was rejected. The bill was not a very good one. The redistribution of seats part of it was, indeed, very unsatisfactory. The principle of it was bad, and the mode in which the principle was carried out was worse. Courage, then, readers! All is not lost because the reform bill is lost. Neither has the Session been wasted. We have had better debates this year than we have had for many years past. Freed from the deadening Palmerston spell, the House leaped at once into new life, and speeches have been delivered worthy of the palmist days of Parliamentary oratory. And is this nothing? These speeches have gone far and wide, have been read by millions, and have done much towards educating the people; and, in short, the new life of the House of Commons has spread amongst the people, as we shall see—nay, do see now. But we have lost the Liberal Government, and got the Conservatives in office. But neither is this an unmixed evil. It is not good that any party should have too long a lease of power. After a time they get cocky, curd, careless, and conservative, and need affliction's rod to whip the offending Adam out of them. If they were not to go over to the cold shade of Opposition now and then they would, like Jeshurun, wax fat and kick—perhaps fancy that they were immortal, and play all manner of fantastic tricks. Depend upon it, these men will be all the better for a change of air. So, again we say, courage, reader—and farewell!

POOR-LAW INSPECTORS.—The Poor-Law Board have decided upon appointing an additional inspector for the metropolitan district. It is intended that the new officer should be a medical man, and the choice of Mr. Hardy has fallen upon Dr. Markham, consulting physician of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, who attracted the attention of the Government by the valuable assistance he afforded in connection with the recent inquiry into the medical arrangements of the military and naval services. Mr. W. Corbett, at present inspector in the manufacturing districts, will be transferred to London, and associated with Dr. Markham in his important duties. Dr. Smith will be Mr. Corbett's successor in Lancashire, and Mr. Farnall will probably be selected to succeed Dr. Smith at York.

STOKE NEWINGTON RIFLES.—A grand volunteer fête took place on Saturday last at Stoke Newington, in the grounds of the Rev. Augustus Clissold, who had given up their use for the day to the volunteers. The fête was inaugurated by the Stoke Newington (12th Tower Hamlets) Rifles. Its details were admirably carried out under the control of Captain Riintz (manager) and Private Charles Norman (secretary). In addition to the band of the corps, the Islington police band was in attendance, and played a variety of selections at intervals throughout the day. The programme was a long and inviting one. It included, besides the athletic sports, entertainments by the Christy Minstrels and the Garrick Dramatic Club. It had been announced that a grand procession would take place, and the visitors were not disappointed, for shortly after three it duly paraded the grounds, headed by the clowns, followed by the band. The rear was brought up by masqueraders and the members of the Dramatic Club in full costume, who were afterwards to perform "Brigand the Brigand; or, the Spirit and the Proof." Those who tired of witnessing foot-races, jumping in sacks, and the Donkey Oaks, had a wide choice of other amusements in the various tents of mystery that dotted the ground, where all who chose to pay a small toll would be "taken in." The "Fairy Post Office" was a source of attraction to many, principally the fair sex. The great attraction, however, was the grand assault at arms by the Life Guards, followed by Saladin feats, cutting a bar of lead or a leg of mutton in two with one blow from a sword. The fête was concluded by a very fine display of fireworks.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE LATE DISTURBANCES IN HYDE PARK.

Earl RUSSELL drew attention to the late disturbances in Hyde Park, and took occasion to criticise the conduct of Mr. Walpole in withdrawing the police in accordance with the arrangements made with Mr. Beales and his friends, which he described as most extraordinary. It appeared to him that the Home Secretary, after receiving all credit for humanity and a desire to do his duty, had failed in the performance of that duty. In conclusion, he inquired what steps would be taken to protect property and person in the park hereafter.

The Earl of DERBY replied that the attack of Earl Russell upon Mr. Walpole was based on incorrect ideas of what had really happened. In the interview between the Home Secretary and the council of the Reform League the former expressly stipulated that he would only withdraw the police so long as the persons and property of the Queen's subjects were respected. For years the parks had not been safe after dark, and these reform meetings had increased the danger. It was therefore astonishing that the noble Earl, after having been in office so many years, should only now have directed his attention to the matter. To the question of the noble Earl, he had to state that the Government were engaged in considering what was to be done; but the origin of the evil was the divided authority which presided over the management of the parks, the police having no power to interfere until called in to support the park-keepers. The only remedy, then, was to put the park under one control, and light the main thoroughfares.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE EXTRADITION BILL.

Lord STANLEY moved the second reading of the Extradition Treaties Act Amendment Bill. In doing so he explained away the idea which has been popularly entertained that this measure is the forerunner of a larger one, in which the list of crimes brought within the provisions of extradition treaties is to be greatly extended. The only offences which were now dealt with by these treaties were murder and attempt to murder, forgery, and fraudulent bankruptcy. A difficulty had arisen, however, with regard to one of the sections of the Act of 1843, which rendered that measure practically inoperative. That section required the depositions on which the warrant for the apprehension of an accused person was issued in a foreign country to be proved according to our law and the practice of our courts. The result was that warrants, although sent out in a manner that was perfectly regular in France, were rejected here unless the seal of the court and the handwriting of the Judge were proved by oral testimony. He admitted the right of the House to discuss the propriety of having any extradition treaty whatever; but if the principle of an extradition treaty were allowed, it would be absurd to render it nugatory by insisting upon technical points which could not be complied with by a foreign Government.

Mr. McCULLAGH TORRENS, in proposing an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months, urged that the principle of extradition ought not to be carried beyond the point at which it was left in the Act of 1843, and which was sufficient for all good and useful purposes. What the French Government really required was that a French warrant should run in the county of Middlesex, and that when a man had been convicted in France during his absence in this country we should, on demand, give him up; and the bill would get rid of all *vide voce* testimony, and hand over accused foreigners upon nothing but documentary evidence. It would give to France, a country governed by institutions not identical with our own, the power of sending over a simple deposition and a warrant; and upon that the magistrate would have to make an order for the extradition of the alleged offender.

Sir R. COLLIER (the late Solicitor-General) accepted a full share of the responsibility of preparing and introducing the bill, and denied that it effected the slightest alteration in the principle of our law of extradition, which required that before a criminal was surrendered the magistrate should be thoroughly satisfied that the evidence substantiated a *prima facie* case against him.

After some further debate, the House divided, and the amendment was negatived, by 77 to 14. The bill was thereupon read a second time.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

In Committee on the Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill.

Mr. DILLON moved a proviso to the first clause, with a view of confining the operation of the measure to the persons who are in custody under the existing Act and to such others as might come into Ireland after the passing of the bill.

The proviso was rejected, on a division, by 53 to 13; but the House resumed without further progress being made.

The Common Law Courts (Fees and Salaries) Bill was read a third time and passed.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House had a sitting on Saturday, at which several bills were forwarded a stage; and the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act (Ireland) Continuance Bill and the Patriotic Fund Bill, from the Commons, were read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

STATE OF THE NAVY.

Sir J. PAKINGTON stated, in reply to Mr. Graves, who asked what were the names of the ships at present available in the reserve for immediate service, that when he acceded to office he did not find the reserve in a satisfactory condition, or in such a condition as he had a right to expect it would be. It was not desirable, therefore, that he should mention the names of the ships.

THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT SUSPENSION (IRELAND) BILL.
The House having gone into Committee on the Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill.

Mr. REARDEN moved as an amendment to the first clause, "That during the continuance of the said Act it shall be lawful to admit to bail such person or persons as are now detained, and such person or persons as may be arrested after the passing of this Act."

Mr. WALSH said that such an addition to the clause was quite unnecessary, as the power already existed.

Mr. REARDEN, on receiving this assurance, said he was content to leave the matter in the hands of the Government.

The amendment was then withdrawn. The bill passed through Committee, and, the standing orders having been suspended, the remaining stages were agreed to, and the bill sent to the House of Lords.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Baron Strathairne, formerly Sir Hugh Rose, and Baron Penrhyn, formerly Colonel Douglas Pennant, took the usual oath and their seats.

THE HABEAS CORPUS IN IRELAND.

The Earl of DERBY, in moving that the Habeas Corpus Suspension (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill be read a second time, regretted that the condition of the sister island was not yet such as to justify the Government in allowing the Suspension Act to expire, so that the country might be placed upon the same footing as the rest of the kingdom. It was true that returns showed a diminution in the ordinary amount of crime; but the Fenian conspiracy, although checked in its outward manifestations, still existed to a dangerous extent in spirit. He eulogised the manner in which the powers of the law had been administered by Lord Kimberley, the late Lord Lieutenant, and expressed a hope that, on the reassembling of Parliament next year, matters would be so much improved that he should be able to advise a return to the ordinary course of law.

Earl KIMBERLEY approved the measure, and declared the Fenian conspiracy to be the most formidable that had threatened Ireland since 1798. After some remarks from the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, the bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIAN OFFICERS.

Lord CRANBOURNE stated, in reply to Major Jervis, that Government had determined upon offering a remedy for the grievances of which the officers of the local army of India have so long complained. The noble Lord also described the main features of the scheme, which appeared to give great satisfaction to the House.

LOCAL VESTRIES AND CHOLERA.

Mr. J. A. SMITH put a question to the president of the Poor-Law Board with regard to the means of summary interference in cases where the vestries of the metropolis might neglect the enforcement of sanitary precautions, or omit or delay the necessary arrangements for the care of the sick and the separation of the healthy from the dying and dead.

Mr. HARDY said he had given all the attention that he had found possible during the short time he had been in office to the subject of the administration of the poor law in London, and this he should continue to do, and he hoped to be able, next Session, to offer to the House a measure framed in a spirit of sympathy with the poor, whether ratepayers or rate-receivers. He believed that all the local bodies were now putting forth their greatest efforts in the most praiseworthy manner, although they ought to have acted sooner, and their ability in this respect would be much increased by the Public Health Bill which had just been passed, and would come into force this day.

Mr. HENLEY observed that a dreadful plague had fallen on some portions of the metropolis, and there were persons who thought that adequate measures had not been taken to meet it. It was a question whether this was not attributable to want of means in those districts; and, looking at the serious nature of the calamity, he should have been glad to hear that the Government were prepared to introduce a short Act providing for the supply of that want by a general rate on the metropolis or by some other means. The cholera, he reminded them, was a gentleman that would not wait until February for remedial measures.

Mr. NEATE, who said he had made a similar suggestion to the President of the Poor-Law Board some days ago without receiving any encouragement, threw upon the Government the responsibility of any failure in providing for the existing emergency.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER intimated, in reply to Mr. Neate's menace, that whilst they thought it would be unwise at a moment such as this to adopt measures that would change the principles on which the local administration was conducted, Ministers would not shirk any responsibility that properly rested upon them.

THE EXTRADITION BILL.

In Committee on the Extradition Treaties Act Amendment Bill, Sir F. GOLDSMID moved a clause excepting political offenders from the operation of the measure.

Lord STANLEY opposed the motion, and after a discussion, in which Mr. Neate, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Mill, the Attorney-General, Sir G. Bowyer, Mr. Ayrton, and Mr. Kinglake took part, the clause was withdrawn on the Foreign Secretary expressing his readiness, at the instance of Mr. Mill, followed by a more formal proposal by Mr. Kinglake, to limit the operation of the bill to twelve months.

A limitation clause to Sept. 1, 1867, was subsequently introduced, and, so amended, the bill was read a third time and passed.

THE BANK CHARTER ACT, ETC.

The order of the day for resuming the adjourned debate on currency and banking was discharged, after a few words from Mr. Watkin, who urged the Government to issue a roving commission of inquiry into the action of the Bank Charter Act during the coming autumn.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House got very rapidly through a good deal of routine business, a variety of bills having been advanced a stage.

The Marquis of WESTMEATH denounced the Puseyite practices which prevailed so largely in the Church of England. He had a question to ask of the Bishop of London in reference to this matter, and he complained that that Prelate was not in attendance.

The Earl of DERBY joined in the complaint, and went on to express regret at the growth of the practices alluded to by the Marquis of Westmeath.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. WALPOLE, replying to Mr. P. A. Taylor, supported the decision of Mr. Knox in reference to the charges of assault made against the police. Subsequently there were brief conversations in reference to the naval reserve, the Turkish loan, and the navigation laws. As to the first, Mr. Berkeley urged that something should be done to strengthen the force.

Mr. HUBBARD called attention to the non-payment of interest on the Turkish loan, and drew from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the information that steps were being taken in connection with our allies to secure the interests of the bondholders.

The Public Schools Bill was withdrawn, and, other measures having been advanced a stage, the House adjourned to Friday, to give the House of Lords time to complete the business it has in hand.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat for a short time, but the business was little more than formal, and their Lordships adjourned till Friday, when Parliament was prorogued.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1866.

"NATIONALITY"

It used to be a principle in English foreign policy—and perhaps, after all, not a bad one—that any European arrangement which suited France did not suit us; and, therefore, that it was our interest and our duty, in a political sense, to thwart the views of France on the Continent in every possible manner. According to this view we have abundant reason for being satisfied with the terms on which Austria and Prussia are making peace; for there is scarcely one journal in France which does not consider them unfavourable to French interests. The general reason for which they are objected to is simple enough—they increase the power of Prussia and the power of Italy without adding in any manner to that of France. Consequently, the power of France becomes relatively diminished. This result had probably not been anticipated by the French themselves; and in England it certainly was the general opinion that some bargain had been struck between the Emperor and Count von Bismarck, by which, in the event of Austria being beaten, France as well as Prussia would be aggrandised. The French, with characteristic greediness, began to call out for their share almost before the war was at an end; and indeed even before the first blow had been struck articles appeared in some of their journals hinting that, by a judicious mixture of the theory of nationalities with the right of universal suffrage, a convenient portion of territory might be secured on the Rhine. It is astonishing how many pretexts may be found for seizing territory if a State really wants it and is able to get it. There is the old reason of the balance of power; the comparatively modern one of the necessity of "rounding" a territory (Frederick the Great's desire to *arrondir* every part of Prussia was the peculiar form in which that Monarch's ambition loved to show itself); the more modern one still of natural frontiers (so extremely popular in France, first under the Republic and afterwards under the Empire); and the one invented almost in the present day, of nationality, and the right of every nation or relic of a nation, or collection of tribes aspiring to the position of a nation, to choose its own government. It would be difficult to claim the least portion of Rhenish territory for France on the ground of nationality alone; and some of the German newspapers have replied beforehand that if there are a few shopkeepers in the Rhenish towns belonging to Prussia who speak French, the fields of Alsace are tilled by peasants who universally speak German and know no other tongue. Whatever the Germans may say on the subject, and whatever the rural population may be, the province of Alsace has produced numbers of excellent French citizens. But in many parts of the Rhine country, whether belonging to France or to Germany, it

would be impossible to apply the nationality theory strictly without committing great injustice.

This word "nationality" is now so much used in political discussion, and the thing itself plays such an important part in political action, that the time has almost arrived for some one to define the term. The "nationality" cry, for instance, has been raised by every nation concerned directly or indirectly in the great German war, which even now, perhaps, has not quite been brought to a close. What is called "the principle of nationalities" is not only invoked by the Italians, it is also appealed to by the Prussians, and, what is still more extraordinary, by the Austrians, who, for the sake of their own interests, ought, one would think, to keep it as much as possible out of sight. It would seem as though the principle of "nationality" was the one great and only thing that nations had undoubted right to go to war about; at least, it is difficult in any other manner to account for the nationality theory of the Austrians, one of whose claims to sympathy during their contest with Prussia has been that the inhabitants of Austria proper are more truly German than those of any portion of the Prussian dominions.

The word "nationality" is used in such a wide sense, and also in such a variety of narrow senses, that both Prussia and Austria may easily find arguments to support the theory that each seems resolved to maintain. In an ethnological point of view, there are few Prussians who are Germans to the backbone. But the conquering, civilising race in Prussia is German, and there are more men in Prussia who speak the language and think the thoughts of Germans than there are in Austria. All the Austrians can say on the subject is that in the German provinces of the empire there are some millions who one and all are of unmixed German descent. In this respect Vienna may be said to be more German than Berlin; and it does not suit the Austrian writers who put forward the nationality argument to pay attention to the numerical smallness of this pure German element. What they maintain is that Austria possesses a population of some millions which is thoroughly German in all its strata; whereas, in Prussia proper, it is only the upper layers of society who are German by origin.

The worst of these ethnological facts is that, unless they are accepted as such by those whom they are intended to influence, they are absolutely of no value. The German population of Austria, from the noble to the peasant, may be of the most remarkable purity; but the Prussians and the inhabitants of North Germany in general choose to ignore it, and persist in regarding the Austrian empire as a whole. Considered in this light, Austria is, of course, not a German empire, though, until this last war, it was still the historical representative of the Empire of Germany.

Our own conviction in reference to what is vaguely called the "principle" of nationalities is that, though the principle in itself may be good, there is a remarkable tendency just now to push it too far. Nor can it be observed to any extent in an unvarying manner. We have Normans in the Channel Islands who do not want to belong, through Normandy, to France; and we have the descendants of French settlers in Canada, who are quite willing that their political existence should remain linked to that of their fellow-subjects in England. On the other hand, the whole population of the United States is English in the sense in which the Venetians are Italians; yet, in a political point of view, the English and the Anglo-Americans are quite as much strangers to one another as Prussians and Austrians. Some day, perhaps, the Venetians, after testing the advantages of Italian citizenship in a practical manner, may decide that it would be better for them to constitute a small Venetian State than a large Italian province. If so, who except the Italians themselves would think of denying this right to them? The fact is, "nationality" is a thing of no importance, compared with liberty. But the noble, time-honoured word "liberty" has a revolutionary sound and is not liked in France, from which country so large a portion of our political vocabulary reaches us, and which, among other words of equal significance, or insignificance, has lent us that of "nationality." This, we are convinced, is one of the reasons which has caused the term to be so much employed by the Imperial publicists. It suits the Imperial policy to preach the doctrine that nationality is everything, liberty nothing; and that a nation cannot really be tyrannized over provided tyrant and subjects be of the same race. How utterly false this idea really is ought to be known to no nation so well as to the French themselves.

EXPLOSION OF A LOCOMOTIVE.—A sad accident occurred on Tuesday, near Sunderland, at the Lambton coal-pits, belonging to the Earl of Durham. An engine-man had allowed the boiler-plates of his locomotive to become overheated for want of water; and on going to a tank for a supply, the water was scarcely put on when a tremendous explosion took place. The massive engine, thirty-three tons weight, was lifted off the rails, turned round and thrown over, and four men who were on it so severely scalded and injured that the lives of two are despaired of. Fortunately, the force of the explosion was downwards; had it been reversed the poor fellows must have been blown to pieces.

LAUNCH OF THE QUIVER LIFE-BOAT.—The ceremony of launching a new life-boat, presented to the National Life-boat Institution by the proprietors of the *Quiver* magazine, was celebrated in Margate on Tuesday last, in the presence of from 15,000 to 20,000 persons. Eight months since the Rev. Teignmouth Shore, M.A., the editor of the *Quiver*, made an appeal to his readers in aid of the Royal National Life-boat Institution, and the result has been the contribution of about £2000, which is sufficient to defray the entire cost of three life-boat stations. Margate was selected as the destination of the first boat; and on Tuesday afternoon the launching and naming of the boat took place, the latter by the wife of the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Bateman. Addresses were delivered by Alderman Stanching (who represented the Mayor, who was absent in consequence of ill-health), the Rev. T. Shore, Mr. J. B. Flint (a member of the local committee), and Captain Ward, R.N., inspector of life-boats to the institution, who, on behalf of the institution, thanked the donors and subscribers for their munificent gift, and the residents and visitors for the reception they had given it. The clergy, Corporation, Pier and Harbour and Waterworks Companies, the churchwardens, and others, took part in the procession, which, headed by the town promenade band, paraded the principal streets of the town.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

COLONEL C. H. LINDSAY, who has accepted the office of Groom in Waiting, was re-elected on Monday for Abingdon without opposition.

THE HON. EDWARD GORDON PENNANT is gazetted a peer, by the title of Baron Penrhyn. This will create a vacancy for the county of Carnarvon, which the new Baron has represented since 1841.

GENERAL MANTEUFFEL has been sent on a special mission from Berlin to St. Petersburg.

MR. STUBBS, LIBRARIAN TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, has been appointed Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford.

THE CONGRESS OF THE BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will be held at Hastings, beginning on the 20th inst.

MR. J. HAMILTON, of Ventnor, Isle of Wight, has left by will £30,000 to the Corporation of Liverpool in trust for the local charities, subject only to the life interest of his sister, Miss Hamilton, who is now sixty years of age.

THE HEALTH OF SIR HENRY STOKES is said to have been seriously injured by his commission to Jamaica, and it is doubted whether he will be able to resume his duties at Malta.

SEVEN YOUNG LADIES have just taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the Maine, U.S., Wesleyan Seminary.

A SERVANT OF THE REV. HIRAM GILDER, Vicar of St. Peter's, Sandwich, has obtained an order of affiliation on her master.

EARL BROWNLOW has declared his intention of presenting to those of his tenantry whose cattle died of the rinderpest, prior to the 20th of February, half the amount of their losses.

THE FORTRESS OF KONIGGRATZ has now been made inaccessible by the Prussians, who have inundated the whole country round it.

THE FRENCH *Moniteur* has been seized at Frankfurt for having published an article in which it speaks of that "unfortunate city."

AN ELEGANT MONUMENT, which will be completed in a few days, has been placed over the remains of the late Sheridan Knowles, in the Glasgow Necropolis.

REBELLION has broken out afresh in St. Domingo, and the rebels have destroyed part of Gonaives by fire, and were also threatening Port-au-Prince.

DR. BUTCHER, Regius Professor of Divinity at Trinity College, Dublin, will, it is believed, be appointed to the bishopric of Meath.

TWO OF THE LIONS, by Sir E. Landseer, for the Nelson Monument have been cast in bronze; a third is nearly finished. These are now in Baron Marchetti's studio at Brompton.

MR. BREWSTER will, it is understood, become Chief Justice of Appeal in Ireland, Mr. Napier having declined the post, on account of the deafness from which he suffers.

THE STEAMER CYCLOPE, which was detained at Yarmouth on suspicion of being intended for the Chilean service, has been released, and has sailed for her destination.

THE AMERICAN CONSUL AT LIVERPOOL has obtained a warrant for the seizure of seven steamers, in the possession of Messrs. Frazer, Trenholm, and Co., alleged to have been the property of the Confederate Government at the time of its collapse.

SIR FREDERICK GRAHAM, BART., of Netherby, at his rent audit, allowed his tenants one half the amount of the loss they had sustained by the cattle plague, after deducting the sum received from the county.

A BEAUTIFUL SCARLET OR PURPLE DYE can be produced from theine, an oil extracted from tea, and it is also found in the leaves of a species of horse chestnut and holly which grow in Brazil.

A MAIDEN ASSIZE was held at Carlow last week, and the Lord Chief Justice was presented with a pair of white gloves. This incident in the recent gaol deliveries in Ireland has been frequent.

THE TENANTRY on the estates of the Right Hon. the Earl of Kintore have obtained full permission from his Lordship to protect themselves against the ravages of game by shooting hares and rabbits on their respective farms.

THE PRINCIPAL EDITORS OF THE BRUSSELS JOURNALS, the *Echo du Parlement* and the *Indépendance*, have just been condemned each to two months' imprisonment and 200*l.* fine for having fought a duel on June 20 last, although neither of the combatants was wounded.

A STAGE-COACH in Nevada was robbed of 3000 dollars at five a.m.; a reward was offered at seven a.m.; the robbers were shot and the money recovered at two p.m.; an inquest was held at three p.m.; and the thieves were buried before sunset.

A NEW BONNET, just introduced, is made of one large full-blown rose, which lies flat on the top of the head, sewn on a scarf of dew-bedroped tulle, which is crossed under the chin, where another small rose peeps forth. The whole is called "chapeau puff."

THE DEATH OF MARQUIS CAMDEN places a Garter at the disposal of the Government and occasions a vacancy in the representation of Brecon.

THREE SPANISH FRIGATES, part of the Pacific squadron, have arrived at Rio with a number of men sick with scurvy, they not having had, it is stated, fresh meat or vegetables for two years.

THE LONG-TALKED OF FIGHT between Mace and Goss took place on Monday morning, at Purfleet. Mace won, after twenty-one quick rounds had been fought, in thirty minutes. He had the best of the encounter throughout, Goss being much punished.

THE MARQUIS OF ABERCORN, whose family name is Hamilton, has just brought before the French Council of State his claim to the title of Duc de Chatehault, held by the Duke of Hamilton, and which was originally conferred in 1548, by Henri II. of France, in favour of James Hamilton, Earl of Arran.

MRS. THERESA LONGWORTH YELVERTON has presented a petition to the House of Lords praying that she may be permitted to proceed with her second appeal from the Court of Session in Scotland against Major Yelverton in *forma pauperis*. This petition was referred to the Appeal Committee.

A FEARFUL STORM has swept over the Adriatic. The Italian fleet in harbour at Ancona suffered severely, and the iron-clad ram *Affondatore* was sunk. Efforts are being made to raise her.

A BET of no less a sum than £40,000 has been made between Sir Joseph Hawley and Mr. Henry Chaplin, each backing their respective representatives—The Palmer and The Hermit—for next year's Derby.

A NEW JOINT-STOCK BANKING COMPANY, on the limited liability principle, has been formed at Birmingham to supply the void caused by the stoppage of the Birmingham Banking Company, the title of which the new company retains. The bank was opened for business on Thursday last.

MR. GEORGE PEARBODY continues to dispense his bounties in America. He has presented Boston with 1,000,000 dolls. to provide homes for the poor; he has bestowed 50,000 dolls. apiece on Harvard, Amherst, and Williams Colleges, in the State of Massachusetts; and has given 50,000 to each of his four nephews, one of whom is the local reporter on a newspaper in the town of Zanesville, Ohio.

A FIRE broke out at the village of Islip, the first station from Oxford on the Buckingham and London and North-Western Railway, on Saturday last, which in a very short time caused eleven poor families to be homeless; their houses, with their furniture, being entirely consumed. It was nearly three hours before an engine from Oxford arrived, too late to save any of the cottages.

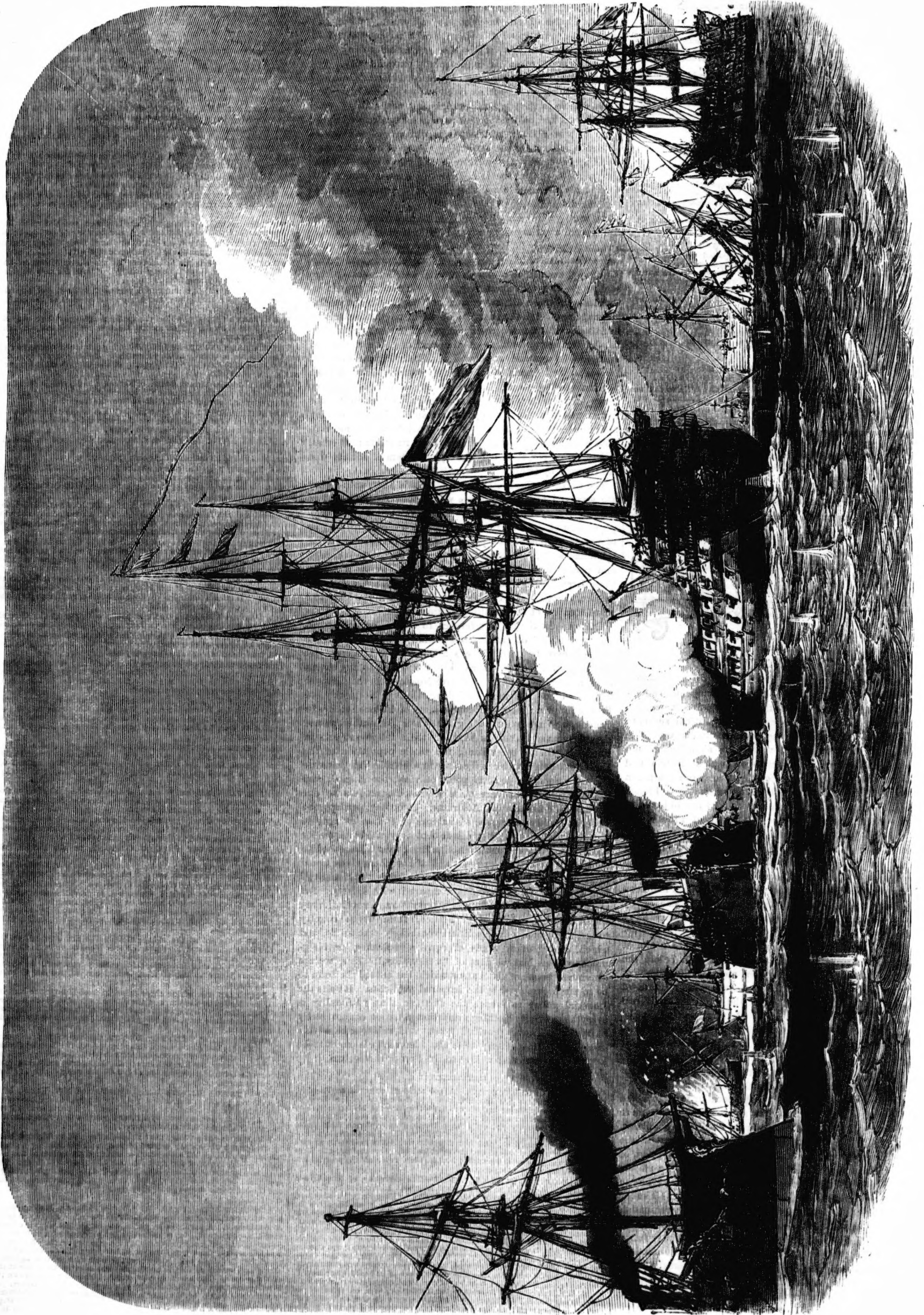
A POLICEMAN was taking three prisoners from Llanrwst to Ruthin, one being handcuffed to himself, and the others handcuffed to one another and walking in front. The rogues in front, seeing a chance of liberty, made off, and the unfortunate constable, being impeded by the human drag, could not overtake them.

THE MINISTERIAL WHITEBAIT DINNER, the immediate precursor of the close of the Session, took place on Saturday last, at the Ship, at Greenwich. Forty-three members of the Government attended, including the whole of the Cabinet except the Earl of Carnarvon. The party embarked from the Palace of Westminster steps in one of the Citizen steam-boats, and returned in the same manner.

THE COURT OF PIACENZA has just condemned Mgr. Ranza, Bishop of that diocese, to 1000*l.* fine and a year's imprisonment for having refused the communion in *extremis* and Catholic burial to a priest named Pizzi, who had signed the address sent by Father Passaglia to the Pope inviting his Holiness to abandon the temporal power.

A MAN, living at a village near Mobile, attempted to frighten some girls by wrapping a white cloth around his body and personating a ghost. All ran but one, who pulled out a revolver and fired six balls into the head and body. At the first shot the ghost fled, but she continued firing. She then went home and related the circumstance, and the parties, returning to the spot, found life entirely extinct, two balls having penetrated the forehead and the other four the region of the heart.

A MODERN GUY FAWKES.—At three o'clock on Monday morning a somewhat startling discovery was made by the police on duty at the Houses of Parliament. A brown paper parcel was found, and what is called a slow match attached to it. On examination the parcel was found to contain five pounds of fine gunpowder done up in nine smaller parcels. A piece of string was tied several times round the parcel and round the match, and it is supposed that the whole was thrown over the wall with the fuse lighted. The string had been itself used as a fuse, and was burnt to the point at the edge of the parcels. The exact spot at which the powder was thrown is about fifteen paces from the Little Abingdon side of the Victoria Lower. At this spot the wall is 9 ft. high, and it is supposed that the person who committed this foolish and mischievous trick must have stood upon the steps of a public-house at the extreme end of the wall. The powder, even if it had exploded, could not have done any harm to the Houses of Parliament beyond breaking a few windows.



THE BATTLE OF LISSA, BETWEEN THE AUSTRIAN AND ITALIAN FLEETS.



"ONE OF OUR BREAD-WATCHERS."—(A) ON THE PICTURE BY F. J. SHIELDS, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE OLD WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY.

THE BATTLE OF LISSA.

THREE official reports of the late naval combat off Lissa between the Austrian and Italian fleets have been published. First we have that of Admiral Tegethoff, the Austrian Commander; then there is one prepared by the Italian Government from logs, officers' private journals, and other sources; and finally, that of Admiral Persano, which had been suppressed by the officials, but has been made public in the newspapers, it is presumed with the Admiral's concurrence. From Admiral Tegethoff's report we make the following extracts:—

The enemy took up position in a straight line, holding their course about N.N.E., and headed by their powerful ironclad division. We neared them very rapidly, and I had no time to make the already prepared signal, "There must be a battle at Lissa," to the squadron, but hastened to make what preparations (dispositions) I deemed necessary.

The disposition of the Austrian squadron was as follows:—According to the class of the vessels, they were arranged in three divisions—namely, the ironclad division, then the heavy wooden ships, and, lastly, the light ones. These divisions were formed into an oblique line, following in each other's wake, the ironclads leading. I at once determined the distance to be maintained between the divisions and between the several ships, gave orders to prepare for action, and to put on full speed. To the ironclad division I signalled, "Bear down upon the enemy and sink him."

In the mean time the enemy's line was cruising right across my squadron's course; and the leading vessel, the ironclad Principe di Carignano, with Rear-Admiral Vacon on board, was the first to open fire, with no very great effect, which fire was promptly replied to by the nearest Austrian ships, and shortly became general. Soon afterwards the Sardinian line was broken by the Austrian ironclad division. A general engagement ensued. Those ships of the enemy's ironclad squadron which lay behind the point at which we had broken through fell away to the northwards. Through this manoeuvre my wooden divisions were menaced, and I sent the ironclad division in a northerly direction, in order to relieve them and bring the enemy's ironclads under a cross fire. Meanwhile the wooden divisions pursued their course and forced their way through the enemy's ironclads, in effecting which both frigates and gun-boats found ample opportunity of measuring their strength with the neighbouring ironclads.

The line-of-battle ship Kaiser—flagship of the second division, Commodore Petz—was at this time engaged with four ironclads simultaneously. Commodore Petz, without hesitation, ran his ship aboard of one while firing concentrated broadsides into the others, and this under circumstances equally trying to the courage and endurance of his crew; for, at the same moment in which he struck his enemy his foremast fell, crushed the funnel of the engine, and created a good deal of confusion on deck, without, however, marvellous to relate, seriously injuring any of the crew then on deck. The ship was in great danger of being set on fire, for the foremast with its rigging lay across the funnel.

Through the gallant behaviour of his crew, however, the Commodore was enabled to win way for his division through the enemy's superior forces. The mêlée became general, and it is difficult to give particulars of it, as the vessels were cruising about under full steam, and it was often hard to distinguish friend from enemy, although the gale set of flags was hoisted on both sides. It was a lucky chance that the iron plates of the Sardinians were generally painted grey.

The division of the enemy's wooden vessels alone lay in good order under the coast of Lissa, steering in a north-westerly direction, and pouring broadsides into the L. R. vessels as they passed it.

During this general combat the commanding officer of my flagship, Post-Captain (Lieutenant's Captain) Max Baron Sternek, was enabled, by the exercise of equal science and bravery, to run aboard, within the space of half an hour, three Sardinian ironclads, of which two sustained heavy damages, the flag of one being captured; and the third, the Rê d'Italia, one of the largest vessels in the Italian fleet, was run down and sunk within two minutes, with her whole crew of more than 600 men. All attempts to save the swimming men belonging to the Rê d'Italia were obliged to be given up, as an attack made upon us from all quarters compelled us to confine our attention to our own safety.

While this mutual struggle was going on a Sardinian ironclad had caught fire, and the enemy's ironclad fleet appeared as though it intended to concentrate for the purpose of rescuing this vessel. I therefore signalled my ships also to assemble, and to form in three columns bearing north-east, the two divisions of wooden vessels covered by that of ironclads; and ordered the steamer Elisabeth to render prompt assistance, if it should be necessary, to the line-of-battle ship Kaiser, which seemed to have suffered severely.

The Sardinian fleet had meanwhile gathered itself together, retreating to a distance of about three or four miles, steering in a direction which enabled them to bring off their burning ironclad, a task which was the easier in that the said vessel was still able to use her engines. After exchanging a few more shots with us, the Sardinian fleet bore away westwards; and thus ended the engagement, which had lasted from a quarter to eleven a.m. to two o'clock p.m.

My object was fulfilled and Lissa relieved. At half-past two we saw the burning Sardinian ironclad blown into the air. According to our prisoners, it must have been the Palestro or the Principe di Carignano. At any rate, it was a ship carrying ten or twelve guns to a broadside. I forbore pursuit, which would have been fruitless, and took my squadron into the harbour of San Giorgio di Lissa; for the great difference existing in the relative speed of the several vessels under my command rendered a compact and rapid advance impracticable, and forbade the possibility of bringing about a general action. There was no object in remaining all night at sea, which, besides, would have necessitated a useless expenditure of coal, &c., all the more important to obviate, as Lissa was without the means of renewing our supplies. Besides, a short stay in the harbour would enable us to effect minor repairs, to assemble the squadron, and to prepare it for making a fresh attack, if necessary, upon the enemy next day with all possible vigour.

The enemy's strength upon our first encounter was estimated at twelve heavy ironclads; and, in all, from twenty-seven to thirty vessels. By report of the men belonging to the Rê d'Italia, who saved their lives by swimming to the beach of Lissa, the number of heavy ironclads in the Sardinian fleet, including the turret ship Affondatore, amounted to twelve; partly ironclads, three; of wooden ships—eight frigates, six war-steamer, three transport vessels: total, thirty-two. The armament of the adverse fleet, according to the statements made by our prisoners, and judging from the stray projectiles found in many parts of the island (Lissa), as well as from the traces left by such projectiles on board our vessels, was composed of cannon of heavy calibre, and among them some of the newest construction. Missiles weighing from 80 lb. to 800 lb. were found lying about. According to general rumour, the Affondatore had 600-pounders on board.

Admiral Persano, after reporting in detail the operations against the island of Lissa, goes on to say:—

The 20th, at daybreak, the weather was stormy, and the fleet also began to feel the want of coal. The Admiral decided the landing should take place immediately, on the plan of the previous day. It was then that the Exploratore appeared in sight from the N.W., with the signal, "Suspicious ships in sight." To give the fleet the necessary time to withdraw from Lissa and form in line of battle (the enemy being enveloped in a storm from N.W. and not yet in sight), Persano had signalled "Form the fleet S.W.," but, the storm clearing, the enemy's smoke was now seen in a more northerly direction, and the signals were repeated, "Enemy in sight" and "Clear for action." The Austrians advanced in two lines, first the ironclads and then the screw-frigates. As all the Italian ships had not yet come up, Persano signalled, "Steer all W.N.E.; attack enemy as soon as within shot." Ten Italian ironclads steered for the enemy, while the screw-frigates were getting in order. The Austrians had seven ironclads in their first line, and a two-decker with frigates and sloops in the second line, making in all twenty-three ships. This being the first naval battle with ironclads, and requiring different tactics, Persano thought it advisable to mount a ship of speed in order to be himself in the thickest of the fight, and at the same time to be able to give orders with greater promptitude. He therefore hoisted his flag on the Affondatore (Martini), accompanied by the Chief of his Staff (D'Amico), the First Flag-Lieutenant (E. Persano), and the Second Signaling-Officer (De Luca); and, leaving orders for the Captain (Fâa di Bruno) of the Rê d'Italia to take the direction of the second division of ironclads, steered on the Affondatore with all speed to the head of action, signalling "Attack when within shot." The enemy's chief attack was on the Rê d'Italia, which was surrounded by three ironclads. The Palestro (Capellini) which was steering to sustain the Rê d'Italia, was struck by a shell on her stern and took fire.

The San Martino (Robert) advanced, but was intercepted by an Austrian ironclad, which, passing astern of the Rê d'Italia, gave this ship a raking broadside, destroying her helm. The other opponents, profiting by this event, struck her on her side, and she sank rapidly. The second division of the enemy attacked the Rê di Portogallo (Ribotti), which skillfully avoided the encounter, and, crossing the line of Austrian ironclads, entered the line of screw-frigates and sent a broadside into the two-decker the Kaiser, which lost her foremast and funnel, besides firing into several of their screw-frigates. The Austrian ironclads then tried to cross to the Italian screw-frigates, but were intercepted by the Maria Pia (del Caretto) and obliged to retreat. It was now that the Austrian ironclads were obliged to follow and protect their own screw-frigates, that were retreating with all speed towards Lesina. While this was taking place, the Affondatore had fired against the Austrian Admiral's ship and tried to run her down; but the two-decker advancing rapidly obliged the Affondatore to veer to the left, thus passing through the Austrian ironclads and running on a parallel line with the two-decker; these two ships exchanged shots, and, entering the Austrian line of frigates, the Affondatore aided in compelling their retreat. On her return she steered again for the two-decker, firing against her fore gun; the Austrian ship here passed astern of the Rê di Portogallo, trying to board her, which was cleverly prevented by her commander. As soon as the Affondatore emerged from the smoke, on the right of the action, Admiral Persano perceived that the division of Albini had not yet taken part in the

attack; advancing towards them, he signalled, "Attack enemy in rear." He could not wait to see this order carried out, but did distinctly see the Austrian frigate with their two-decker, now much damaged, making fast for Lesina, followed by the first division of their ironclads. The second Austrian division was endeavouring to place itself on the left, menaced by the Italian avant guard, that was following in line of attack. The Italian Admiral tried by a prompt evolution to cut off the enemy, placing himself between their ironclads and frigates, and, signalling "Give free chase," steered with the Affondatore towards the head of the enemy's line. But the opportune moment had passed; the enemy had covered the retreat of their frigates with their ironclads.

The Palestro was now seen coming forward with all speed, the enemy trying to cut off her retreat. Persano, at the head of the Italian ironclads, advanced to protect her, and exchanged a few shots with the Austrian ironclads before these also retreated to Lesina. In the meanwhile the Palestro exploded; only fifteen of the crew saved, as no one would willingly abandon their captain (Capellini) or their ship.

Persano then endeavoured to form the fleet in compact order, steering always towards Lissa, with the intention of again attacking the enemy, and at 3.20 p.m. the fleet, with few exceptions, was re-formed in two columns. At six p.m. being sure the enemy was no more in sight, the Italian Admiral gave orders to steer for Ancona, remaining himself on the spot with the Affondatore and Principe Umberto (Acton), and thus saved nine officers and 150 men of the crew of the Rê d'Italia. It is sad to record that the strugglers in the water were fired upon by the enemy; but Persano is convinced the Austrian Admiral will share his indignation at this act of barbarity. We have, perhaps, not defeated the enemy, but his proceedings show he has sustained great damages. Although 400 guns fatally remained out of action, all the ships that took part in it covered themselves with glory. If the battle of Lissa was not a victory, it is at least a glory for the Italian navy.

"ONE OF OUR BREAD-WATCHERS."

NOBODY who has wandered among the fields about spring-time without noticing the cry of the "bird-keepers," the little children whose duty it is to scare feathered marauders from the springing wheat during the inclement season which poets glorify as "benignant spring." If the poets took a turn at bird-keeping, we fancy they would find a less flattering epithet for the pinching weather in which these poorly-fed and ill-clad little folk have to earn their paltry pittance in the lone and too often snow-covered fields. Their task is a more agreeable one at this season, when they have to exercise themselves in protecting the ripening grain.

The cry of the bird-keeper is one of the many strange sounds that ring through the country-side, and strike so quaintly on the ear of those unaccustomed to the noises of nature. In the West of England it has a peculiarly musical and plaintive cadence. Towards the north it appears to pick up a quaintness. We remember to have heard a bird-keeping song in Norfolk with a funny refrain, addressed to the feathered thieves:—

Here comes the clappers
To knock you down back'ards,
Holla, ka-whoo!

Mr. Shields has invested his subject with a touch of poetry and pathos, and his title is a very happy one. He is a rapidly-rising artist, who, in a few short seasons, has made himself a name, and whose accession to the ranks of the Old Water-Colour Society (in the late exhibition at which gallery the picture was to be seen) has gone far to bring vitality to an institution that, as is the nature of things, had begun to show signs of decline.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

It is hardly conceivable, I think, that the gunpowder found on the grass plot in one of the quadrangles of the Westminster Palace connected with the House of Lords was placed there for mischievous purposes. There, if it had exploded, it could have done little or no mischief. But how came it there? It is said that a half-consumed fusee was found with it. This is an addition to the report which I heard from an official when the powder was found; and I suspect that this fusee is a myth. But still the fact remains that the gunpowder was there; and how came it there? It has been suggested that it was dropped there by somebody who meant to deposit it in a place where the explosion of it would have done mischief, but was alarmed by some one approaching, and, dropping his burden, ran away; and this explanation has a plausible look at first sight. But who and what on earth could the supposed Guy Faux mean to blow up, and who was he? Was it one of the Reform League? Hardly likely, one would say; for what motive could he have to blow up the House of Lords or anybody connected therewith? If it was intended to do mischief, the man who projected the mischief must be a madman: and such men do prowl about the Houses of Parliament. That mad wretch who murdered his wife and children, and was hanged lately—I forget his name—was frequently about both Houses, and, by his confession, carried pistols about him to shoot somebody; he, if it had struck him, would have been very likely to have planned wholesale murder by an explosion of gunpowder. But I suspect that this powder was not placed in the quadrangle for mischief. If there was a spent fusee, some foolish person meant to have an explosion for a lark; for there an explosion could have done little or no harm. If there was, as I suspect, no fusee, it seems to me that some drunken fellow, carrying gunpowder, went through the grounds of the palace, as a short cut from Westminster Bridge to Old Palace-yard, and dropped it there. One would hope that this is the true explanation. The shooting season is at hand; gentlemen are fast leaving town for the moors; and gunpowder is on the move. Still, there is a mystery about the matter; but as this gunpowder, for whatever purpose it was intended, must have been procured somewhere, it is most likely the police will be able to solve the mystery. Until the mystery is cleared up the dwellers in the palace—especially the ladies—will be probably rather nervous. But, really, I cannot imagine that mischief was intended, and still less can I imagine that any gunpowder plot could be successful; for the palace is watched and every part of it inspected night and day. I think I am right in saying that policemen traverse every part of the building once every quarter of an hour, down to the lowest vaults, and that inspectors follow to examine the mechanical tell-tales on which the policemen have to record their visits.

The Session is over; Parliament was prorogued by Commission on Friday. Most of the members have long since been gone, and in a few days there will be scarcely a dozen in town, except the Ministers of the Crown, who must stop awhile to finish off their work. For six or eight months, then, the Conservative Government will be safe; two more quarters' salaries they will be sure of, if such supernatural beings care for such worldly matters, as I suspect they do; for they are not so high as to be above those natural wants which money alone can satisfy. Especially those whom we may call the *dii minores*—the junior lords and under-secretaries, officers of the household, &c. Fifteen hundred or even a thousand a year additional income is very acceptable to some of them, as we all know. "A thousand a year," said my old gossip, Blogg, to me, "is a very awkward income for a gentleman, Sir. It is neither one thing nor another. But, add to this another £1000 or £1500, and you get into a very comfortable position." "I have heard, though," I replied, "that the eldest son of a noble Earl now in high office boasts that he can live on £500." "I don't believe it can be done. The man you allude to, though, has no wife—no establishment, but has rooms in his father's house; and he has no expensive habits; does not even keep a horse of his own. Still, he cannot do it for that."

It is confidently believed that the present Government will not survive the month of March, 1867; the ideas of March are to be fatal to them, as they were to Caesar. So say the prophets; but I should not like to bet upon the fulfilment of the prophecy. It depends, as the phrase is, if the Liberal party can unite, it will, of course, be able to displace the Government easily. But can it unite? Ay, there's the rub. The chiefs of the Liberal party stand solemnly pledged to reform; and, knowing this, will the Adullamites help them to redeem their pledge? One would say at present, no; but the reform question is entering a new phase. The agitation which has begun will not subside; and it is possible that many of these gentlemen may be brought to think that it will be better to pass a moderate reform bill now than run the risk of having a much larger measure extorted from them a few years hence. No great

measure in modern times has been granted to the people willingly. To prevent a rebellion in Ireland, the Iron Duke and his lieutenant, Peel, gave us Catholic emancipation; the Lords would not have passed the Reform Bill of 1832 but for the threat of a large creation of peers; the Irish famine, as Cobden once said, antedated free trade several years. In short, we have always to rouse the fears of our legislators before we can get out of them really great measures. The Adullamites will not willingly concede reform, but it may be extorted from them; and if they should, next Session, determine that it is no longer safe to withhold, then out will go the Conservatives; but, if not, not: at least, so it appears to me.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.
THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly* for Aug. 1 is a more varied number than any we have had lately. Some people have complained that the names of the writers in this Review were often little known, but that complaint could not, at all events, be made of the present number. Henry Kingsley, George Meredith, and Sir John Lubbock are signatures that catch the eye at once. The policy of Italy, Mr. and Mrs. Baker's African travel, the use of metaphor in poetry, Shakespeare's sonnets, life in Hungary, the sovereignty of the sea—this is surely (*style choisi*!) a varied bill of fare. Mr. W. C. Cartwright is of opinion that the Italians will hold their own, and that their national life is a reality, not anything "evoked" and likely to pass away when the "idiot with the pitchfork" waves the pitchfork again. The Hon. Roden Noel has very well opened the question of the right use of metaphor, starting from a criticism of Mr. Ruskin's. Mr. J. K. Laughton on the "Sovereignty of the Sea" is admirable. I may observe that the complaint of the newness of some of the names which are found from time to time in the *Fortnightly* is a very snobbish complaint. As to subjects upon which the ground is open, and the "authority" of an article, a thing of minor interest to the general reader, the *Fortnightly Review* holds open council; and why should any human being object to any other human being, known or unknown, getting a hearing? I have read articles in the *Fortnightly Review* which did not strike me as bright, but only one or two which did not strike me as worth attention; and when "authority" (as it is unfortunately called), is of consequence, or is supposed to be of consequence, you are sure of first-class names in the several departments. The plan of the Review was frankly stated in the prospectus, and it has been faithfully adhered to.

The *Contemporary*, No. VIII, is capital. "The Myths of Plato" is completed. Mr. Tyrwhitt, always so effective in art-criticism, contributes a paper on "Millais and Doré," and Mr. Edward Dowden an essay on the "Poetical Feeling for External Nature." In his estimate of the late Mr. Keble I partially agree. Of course, no high rank as a poet can be claimed for him; but a poet he *was* (in my opinion) who would have sung a great deal better if he had not been a clergyman. Perhaps Mr. Dowden would not very strenuously refuse to give him a place opposite, say, Thomas Hood, on the same level? But Hood was, of course, a man of much wider range—take him for all in all, he was.

In Mr. Beeton's *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* the writer of the monthly gossip lets the cat out of the bag in a most delicious way. After throwing up his cap with joy at the return of the Conservatives to power, he refers to the talk and the printed scandal about the marriage of the Princess Helena, and then sweetly says:—"As contrasted with other countries, great luxury is certainly enjoyed by English journalists. A paragraph which appeared in *Punch* the other day, taken in connection with some silly talk which has been going on lately, has given rise to much surprise and disgust." This is candid. How we ought to envy other countries!

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

On Saturday night Mr. Cheltnam's three-act drama, "Six Years After," originally produced at Greenwich, was revived at the OLYMPIC, which theatre is under the temporary management of Mr. Hastings. The piece was only moderately successful on its first performance, but a judicious use of the pruning-knife has now rendered it more worthy of public favour. The new play suffers considerably through challenging a comparison with Mr. Tom Taylor's popular "Ticket-of-Leave Man," of which it professes to be a sequel. There is, however, sufficient individuality in Mr. Cheltnam's drama to make it a subject of interest on its own merits with playgoers who are willing to forget the previous adventures of Jem Dalton and Robert Brierley. It is well mounted, and, as a rule, well acted. Perhaps the audience may be occasionally reminded that Mr. Neville is out of town, and that Miss Lydia Foote is at present starring in the provinces; but Mr. Neville and Miss Lydia Foote were so exceptionally excellent in their performance that it would be unfair to complain of their substitutes for falling a little under their standard. If Miss Willmore appears a trifle inferior to Miss Farren in the part of Sam Willoughby, there is at least the consolation of knowing that Miss Farren will return and play the character next week. Of Mr. Craig, a new comer, the least said is the soonest mended; and of Mrs. Poynter, the present critic, finding it impossible to say any good, will refrain from saying any harm. Messrs. Atkins, Vincent, Maclean, and Soutar were loudly welcomed on reappearing in their original characters; and at the fall of the curtain the author and leading actors were called forward and covered with applause. The drama was followed by the stock farce of "Raising the Wind." A new afterpiece is to be produced next week.

The HAYMARKET appears to be doing tolerably well with "An Unequal Match" and "The Dancing Barber." In the former piece Miss Amy Sedgwick is, of course, the chief attraction; and in the latter, Mr. Joseph Irvine gives a remarkably funny imitation of the French dancers who are now performing at the Princess's.

The HOLBORN THEATRE is to be opened in the course of next month, with a new and original drama by Mr. Boucicault on a subject full of interest for gentlemen connected with "the turf." The piece will be full of sensation and scenery, the latter provided by Messrs. Fenton and James. The company will include the names of Belmore, George Neville, Garden, Voltaire, Miss Jane Burke (from New York), Miss Charlotte Saunders, Miss Bessie Foote, and others, *que nunc prescribere longum est*.

THE MISSISSIPPI.—Old steam-boat men declare that the signs of the past four or five seasons point to the permanent drying up of the Mississippi River, reducing it from a stream navigable for the largest boats the whole season to one of uncertain navigation, like the Missouri, passable at certain seasons, and the rest of the year shrunk to a mere creek, winding along among sand-bars and shoals. There is certainly some change taking place in our climate that is affecting our lakes and rivers. The average of water is steadily decreasing. Our "June rise," once as certain as the coming of the month, has totally ceased. Rains which would have once swelled the river several feet now do not seem to affect it in the least. All the western rivers are gradually shrinking up. But the development of our railroad system makes river navigation no longer the necessity it once was.—*St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer*.

THE TWELFTH OF AUGUST.—Rather conflicting are the accounts that continue to reach us of the prospect of sport on the moors, and anxious, and more anxious, have grown those in "popular cities pent," who make their annual northern migration for the healthiest of exercises and most enjoyable of recreations—to tread the blooming heather, and inhale the breezy air in pursuit of grouse. So bad is the intelligence from certain districts that some of our most ardent sportsmen have been obliged to abandon their intention of renting shooting-quarters this season, and probably several of those expensive luxuries will remain untenanted, few, however capable of affording it, being likely to reconcile themselves to taking what our facetious contemporary might call an un-crowned and un-crowned lease. Disease has certainly committed great ravages, but mostly on low-lying and marshy moors. It is very satisfactory to be able to assure our readers that on the slopes and higher lands in Scotland generally the birds are numerous, strong, healthy, and brightly-plumaged. Indeed, the complaint is, that many of the hills are overstocked with such game. Blackcock are also on the increase, a falling-off from the average being noticed only in snipe and blue hares. In a few days the unsatisfactory and satisfactory intelligence will be tested, and we make no doubt that, with the exception to which we have referred, a good bag will, as usual, be the result of a good shot over every fairly stocked moor.—*Land and Water*.

FINE ARTS.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FINE ARTS.

We had occasion to notice at the beginning of the season the first exhibition of the young institution, then occupying a gallery in Pall-mall. The society has since that time achieved considerable success abroad. At home, owing to the universal occupation of our artists on works for the Royal Academy, its operations have been very circumscribed. Now, however, that the spacious gallery at 9, Conduit-street, has been taken, the promoters hope to obtain the co-operation of our best artists; and not only hope, but deserve, to obtain success, so long as they conscientiously strive to promote its objects.

The first great aim of the society is to supersede the "dealers," who, while seemingly the friends of art, are in reality its enemies. The artists of confirmed repute do not need their aid; the rising artists purchase it too dearly; while the patron in either case has to give the middleman so large a profit as must tend to frighten people from buying. The low prices they pay the painter limit his means of study; the high prices they take from buyers limit patronage. This is the harder on art because the dealer is the necessity of the purchaser, not the artist.

The society aims therefore to supplant the dealer as a trustworthy agent to ensure bona fide works to those desirous of buying, and it seeks to do so at a small percentage on sales.

Another—and almost equally important—object of the society is to be found in its "international" element. It proposes to familiarise us with the works of foreign artists of all schools; while, on the other hand, it will spread a knowledge of the English school on the Continent. The principles of free trade hold good in art as in commerce, and only good can come from so catholic an undertaking as this. We believe it is also contemplated to establish art-schools and lectures on art in connection with the society. For both these branches there is a decided want in this country, and we say this with a distinct recollection that the South Kensington Museum professes to supply it.

The only feature in connection with the society (which is supported by noblemen and gentlemen whose names are a guarantee of disinterested earnestness in the cause) that at all appears questionable is its association with an art-union, a thing which experience has proved to be what wise men said of it at its start—an institution injurious to the true interests of art. With this exception, however, the scheme seems to have been carefully devised, with a view to promoting the advantage of artist and patron with no more than that fair return of profit, which has been proved, even in the administration of charities, to be the soundest principle on which work can be done.

As a matter of detail, we cannot but think that in order to induce any large number of artists to support the society, there must be some modification of the plan by which exhibitors are bound to become shareholders. The artist is, as a rule, not a very experienced man of business, but on that very account will be less ready to enter a society which bears a "limited" after its name, until the idea that the panic in the City, from which he suffered through his patrons, was due to limited liability has faded from his mind. In what other way an arrangement can be come to between the society and our painters we are unable at once to say, but doubtless some substitute may be discovered—and we trust will. Indeed, if the society wishes to outstrip the dealers as speedily as possible, it will devise some plan which will throw the walls open to young and little-known artists. By so doing it will place good yet cheap art within the reach of the public and open a field for the vast amount of talent of which circumstances, the ignorance of dealers, or the unfairness of hanging committees, now combine to deprive the public. We do not hesitate to tell the promoters of this excellent institution that, however beneficial it may be to get a few good artistic names, it must look for its success to young, ardent, undiscovered genius, not to those assured reputations, which find the dealers the easiest, if not the most lucrative, channel for the disposal of their works.

The present exhibition—to return to the subject which has given rise to these reflections—consists, as we have already mentioned, almost entirely of the works of foreign artists. Some of these are already familiar to the public, others are not more new than welcome.

The "Dancing Lesson" (50) and the "Fencing School" (49) are fine examples of M. Serrure, one of the masters of the Belgian school, to which also belongs M. J. Stevens, of whose animals our own Landseer in his palmiest days need not have been ashamed. There is great character in the greyhounds in the "Siesta" (55), while in the "State of War" (56) the vigorous truth and life of both dog and monkey cannot be too much admired. From the same school spring M. Kaelhoff, whose charming landscapes have a wonderful nature about them; M. Hubert, whose "Souvenir de Moldave" (32) is one of the gems of the exhibition; and M. M. De Noter and Willems, who work together so admirably in the "Breakfast" (20). Kindermans, Verbockhoven, Smits, Stroobant, and Wanters are also represented in the gallery. The French school supplies Achard, Castan, and Tavernier; and artists of the Italian, German, and Dutch—even of the Swiss—schools are among the contributors to the exhibition.

The collection of water colours is, if possible, more interesting than that of oil-paintings, and works by most of the artists named will be found in this department. This is the art in which English painters will be expected to hold their own best, for the English water-colour school is favourably known even on the Continent. But there are works in the gallery which our artists will find it difficult to surpass. A supplementary collection of drawings, etchings, engravings, lithographs, helio-lithographs, and chromo-lithographs, will well repay an inspection; and reminds us that the society will, if successful in establishing itself on a firm basis, extend its attention to all branches of art—to the decorative manufactures and every style of workmanship into which art enters.

The scheme embraces an ambitious group of objects, but its promoters appear to be concentrating their energies on the accomplishment of it by slow but progressive steps; so that, though an ambitious it is not a wild, essay; and its intention is so clearly for the benefit of art that we cannot begrudge it a godspeed on its journey.

COMMUNICATION WITH RAILWAY GUARDS.—The Select Committee on Railways (Guards and Passengers' Communication) Bill reported to the House of Commons that they thought it highly desirable that there should be such a communication, but, considering the late period of the Session, they suggested that the bill should be postponed till next year, expressing their hope that in the mean time the railway companies will use their best exertions to carry out the suggested communication between guards and passengers.

PURIFICATION OF WATER.—In existing circumstances, with cholera raging amongst us, it behoves us to urge the adoption of such preventive measures as may tend to lessen the ravages of this epidemic, and a measure of the first importance is the securing a supply of pure water. This boon we fear we shall never obtain from the water companies, so that it devolves upon the public individually to look after their own interests and purify their daily supply of water. There are various means for effecting this object which are more or less perfect in their action. There are a variety of filters for use in apartments, and there are plans for purifying the whole supply as it leaves the cistern. This latter method is undoubtedly the best, as it guarantees to the consumer that impure water shall not, under any circumstances, be used. The most perfect apparatus which has come under our notice appears to be Mr. Ransome's new water filter and purifier, which is being manufactured by the Patent Concrete Stone Company. These filters and purifiers consist of two hollow vessels placed one within the other, the intervening space being filled up with charcoal. These vessels are made of artificial stone of a peculiarly fine yet porous character, invented by Mr. Ransome, and produced by varying the ingredients of which the stone is composed. The apparatus is supported on rests a few inches from the bottom of the vessel containing the water to be filtered, so that it stands clear of the grosser sediment, whilst the entire surface of the stone is thus presented to the water. The porosity of the stone allows the water to flow freely into the interior of the filter, and it is thus freed from all mechanical impurities. Complete purification is effected by the body of animal charcoal through which the water passes on its way to the inner chamber, whence it is drawn perfectly free from any deleterious matter. —*Mechanics' Magazine.*

THE ATLANTIC CABLES.

Now that the cable of 1866 is an established success, the prospects of picking up the one of 1865 are being eagerly canvassed. It will be useful, therefore, to briefly recapitulate the position of the broken end, the efforts made to retrieve it, and the causes leading up to the disappointment of last year, as well as the sanguine hopes which followed. Upon the 2nd of August, 1865, when the Great Eastern was in 2000-fathom water and 1062 miles from Valentia, the cable parted. The distance from Heart's Content was 606 miles, lat. 51 deg. 25 min., long. 39 deg. 6 min. For this point the Terrible and Albany sailed on Wednesday week, and, assuming these vessels to steam eight knots an hour, they would arrive there some time during Saturday. It matters little whether the ocean buoys left by the Great Eastern to mark the spot have survived the Atlantic storms of the winter. Until waves are found to wash away the sun the leaders of this expedition can afford to smile at the half-hearted doubts of those who make the discovery of the broken cable depend upon the substantiality of a red flag, a black ball, and a mushroom anchor. It is well known that Captain Anderson and Staff Commander Moriarty, R.N., took independent observations daily, and never varied so much as a quarter of a mile in the bearings given. There is no reasonable doubt, therefore, that the ships dispatched a few days ago will arrive at and be marking the spot for grappling before the Great Eastern comes up. The latter had to take in a supply of coals before leaving Newfoundland with the Medway; and it may be that the honour of picking up the cable's end will be gained by the Albany. For, in order that no time shall be lost, the latter has been amply supplied with picking-up and recovering gear, and when once the spot has been ascertained the process of grappling will commence. The time this will occupy, and the period to elapse before those watchers in the telegraph-house at Foilhommerum are gladdened by a communication through the cable of 1865, will depend greatly upon the weather. It is unnecessary to say that a portion of the large telegraphic staff at Valentia are now told off to watch the old cable day and night, and that the instant its end is recovered the glad news will be telegraphed through. Calculations as to time must, as we have already hinted, be received with some reserve; but the proceedings of last year afford fair data upon which to base an hypothesis. Referring to the published record, we find that grappling commenced and the hauling in of the cable set in the very day after its fracture; then came the first disheartening failure of material. The rope used for the grapnel was divided into lengths of a hundred fathoms, each having a shackle at the end with a heavy iron swivel. One of these swivels gave way, the drum flew round rapidly, and the tail of the picking-up rope flourished in the air, while the cable sank back into its oozy bed. This was on the 3rd of August. Then came fog and drifting, at the end of which the great ship was forty-five miles from the spot where the cable parted. It was then resolved to place a buoy to mark the latter place as soon as it was regained, which was accordingly done. The 4th, 5th, and 6th of August were spent in dense fog and drizzling rain, and it was only on the 7th that attempts at picking up could be renewed. On this latter day the grapnel, with 2500 fathoms of rope, was for the second time cast out to seek its fortune. The cable was caught again. A moonlight night, a smooth sea, and a favouring breeze facilitated operations; the signal "Going on hopefully" was passed to the Terrible—then, as now, the Government consort of the expedition—when the head of a swivel-pin gave way and the shackle leaped into the sea to join the buried cable. The unswerving instruments showed that the latter had been raised one mile from its resting-place, and it was when the anxious hopes of the operators were at their highest that the machinery yielded to the strain upon it. A second buoy was lowered about ten miles west of the first and where this lost swivel broke, and both Great Eastern and Terrible lay to until midnight, when the wind rose and they parted company. The 9th of August was occupied in preparing for the third and last attempt at picking up. A summer gale set in, and the great ship moved gently to the waves. This made it impossible to keep close to the buoy, and thirty-five miles from it were run. On the 10th the grapnel was lowered, and, after seeking for some hours, it became plain that the ship had passed over the place without finding the cable. The grapnel-rope was hauled in, when it was found that the chain attached to the shank had taken half a hitch round one of the flukes, and that the instrument could not possibly catch anything at the bottom. The now damaged rope was examined and repaired, a shorter grapnel substituted, and the cable was eventually caught for the third time. Seven hundred and sixty-five fathoms—more than a fourth of the entire distance—were hauled in, when a shackle on the hemp hawser passed through the machinery, and the rope parted near the capstan, and flew over the tow with a whistling sound like that of round shot. So ended the attempts of 1865. They were frustrated in every instance by inadequate machinery, and the work has now been resumed, with every advantage over the Great Eastern of last year. Ropes, shackles, swivel, and gear are, humanly speaking, the perfection of strength and adaptability; and it may be fairly hoped that a message from ship to shore through the cable of 1865 will be received this week. The spot will of course be as easy to find from Newfoundland as when the Great Eastern drifted forty and thirty-five miles from it. The coze forming the Atlantic's bed is, it may be repeated, of almost the same specific gravity as the iron wire, and the latter will not sink beyond its own depth. The constant tests show its electrical condition to have steadily improved since it was broken, and it only needs average good fortune to place, in a few days, a second working cable between Europe and America at the disposal of the spirited Anglo-American Company which now has first ownership in both.

The following answer has been returned by the Governor-General of Canada to the message transmitted by Lord Carnarvon in the name of her Majesty:—

VISCOUNT MONCK TO THE EARL OF CARNARVON.

Cable.—Your message of July 28 received. Present my humble duty to the Queen, and assure her Majesty that her Majesty's gratification at the additional strength which the completion of the Atlantic telegraph will give to the unity of her empire is shared by all her subjects in British North America.

Ottawa, Aug. 1.

An exchange of courtesies has just passed between the Mayor of Vancouver Island and the Lord Mayor, by telegraph, the one trying to embody in his message the feeling of the colony, and the other that of the mother country. The first message was received at the Mansion House on Friday night, and was in these terms:—

FRANKLYN, MAYOR, VANCOUVER, JULY 31, TO LORD MAYOR, LONDON. The infant colony Vancouver, 8000 miles distant, sends telegraphic cordial greetings to Mother England.

To this the Lord Mayor of London, taking up the vein, and reciprocating the sentiments of his far distant correspondent, replied by telegraph as follows:—

TO THE MAYOR OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

Mother England acknowledges the cordial greeting of her infant son Vancouver. May peace, good will, and unanimity unite and prosper our happy family!

It will be observed that three days were occupied in the transmission of the message between Vancouver Island and this country. It would be carried across the continent of America to Newfoundland—how far by telegraph does not appear. Seven hours, or thereabouts, would be spent in conveying it by steamer from the American coast to Newfoundland, a distance of seventy miles; from twelve to fourteen hours thence by the Atlantic cable to Valentia, and thence to London about an hour more, making three days and nights, or seventy-two hours. Altogether it must have travelled, taking the whole route, at the rate of upwards of 111 miles an hour, but in the seventy miles from the American shore to Newfoundland it would only be conveyed at the rate of ten miles an hour.

REED, a tinplate-worker, murdered his wife, about four years ago, in Richmond-row, Liverpool, and absconded. Nothing was heard of him until quite recently, when he was discovered in America, and a detective has gone out to bring him back for trial.

OBITUARY.

MARQUIS CAMDEN.—Marquis Camden was found dead in his bed on Monday morning, about eight o'clock, at his seat, Bayham Abbey, near Tunbridge Wells, from natural causes. Mr. Starling, his medical attendant, was sent for, and pronounced life to have been extinct some hours. The deceased nobleman was born on May 2, 1799, and was consequently in his sixty-eighth year. He succeeded his father in 1810. He was married, in 1835, to Harriet, eldest daughter of Dr. Murray, late Bishop of Rochester, and leaves issue two sons and eight daughters. His eldest son, John Charles, Earl of Brecknock, M.P. for the Brecon burghs, was married only on the 12th ult. to Lady Clementina Spencer Churchill, sister of the Duke of Marlborough, and had not returned from his wedding tour. The late Marquis was president of the Kent Archaeological Society, and on Thursday and Friday last presided over its annual meeting, at Ashford, with his usual ability and urbanity, and apparently in excellent health. He was also patron or president of several other societies of a scientific and philanthropic character, and did much by precept and example to forward the movement for the improvement of the dwellings of the agricultural labourers, for whose social, physical, and spiritual welfare he always displayed the utmost concern. The late Marquis was greatly beloved and respected in the county of Kent, as well as in the higher circles in which he moved, and his unexpected death will be much regretted.

SIR HARRY JONES.—Sir Harry David Jones, G.C.B., Royal Engineers, and Governor of the Royal Military College, died on Thursday week, at Sandhurst. Sir Harry Jones obtained his commission as Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in September, 1808, and in the following year served in the expedition to Walcheren. He also served in the campaigns from 1810 to 1814, in the Peninsula. In February, 1815, he joined the army under General Lambert, in Dauphin Island; and, by the return of an American flag of truce, was sent to New Orleans on special duty. On his return to Europe, he proceeded to join the army in the Netherlands, and landed at Ostend on June 18, 1815. He was appointed commanding Engineer in charge of the fortifications on Montmartre after the entrance of the British troops into Paris, in 1815; and was appointed a commissioner to the Prussian army of occupation in 1816. At the commencement of the war against Russia, in 1854, he was appointed a Brigadier-General for particular service in the Baltic, and commanded the British forces at the siege operations against Bomarsund, in the Aland Isles. For his services in the Baltic he was promoted to Major-General. He was appointed in February, 1855, to command the Royal Engineers in the Eastern campaign, which he retained until the fall of Sebastopol. He was wounded in the forehead by a spent grape-shot on the 18th of June. He was made a Knight Companion of the Order of the Bath, and was created a Grand Cross of that Order in 1861. His commissions bore date as follows:—Second Lieutenant, Sept. 17, 1808; First Lieutenant, June 24, 1809; Second Captain, Nov. 12, 1813; Captain, July 29, 1825; Brevet Major, Jan. 10, 1837; Lieutenant-Colonel, Sept. 7, 1840; Brevet Colonel, Nov. 11, 1851; Colonel, July 7, 1853; Brigadier-General, July 10, 1854; Major-General, Dec. 12, 1854; and Lieutenant-General, July 6, 1860. He was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal Engineers on Aug. 2, 1860. In 1856 he succeeded General Sir G. Sovell, K.C.B., as Governor of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

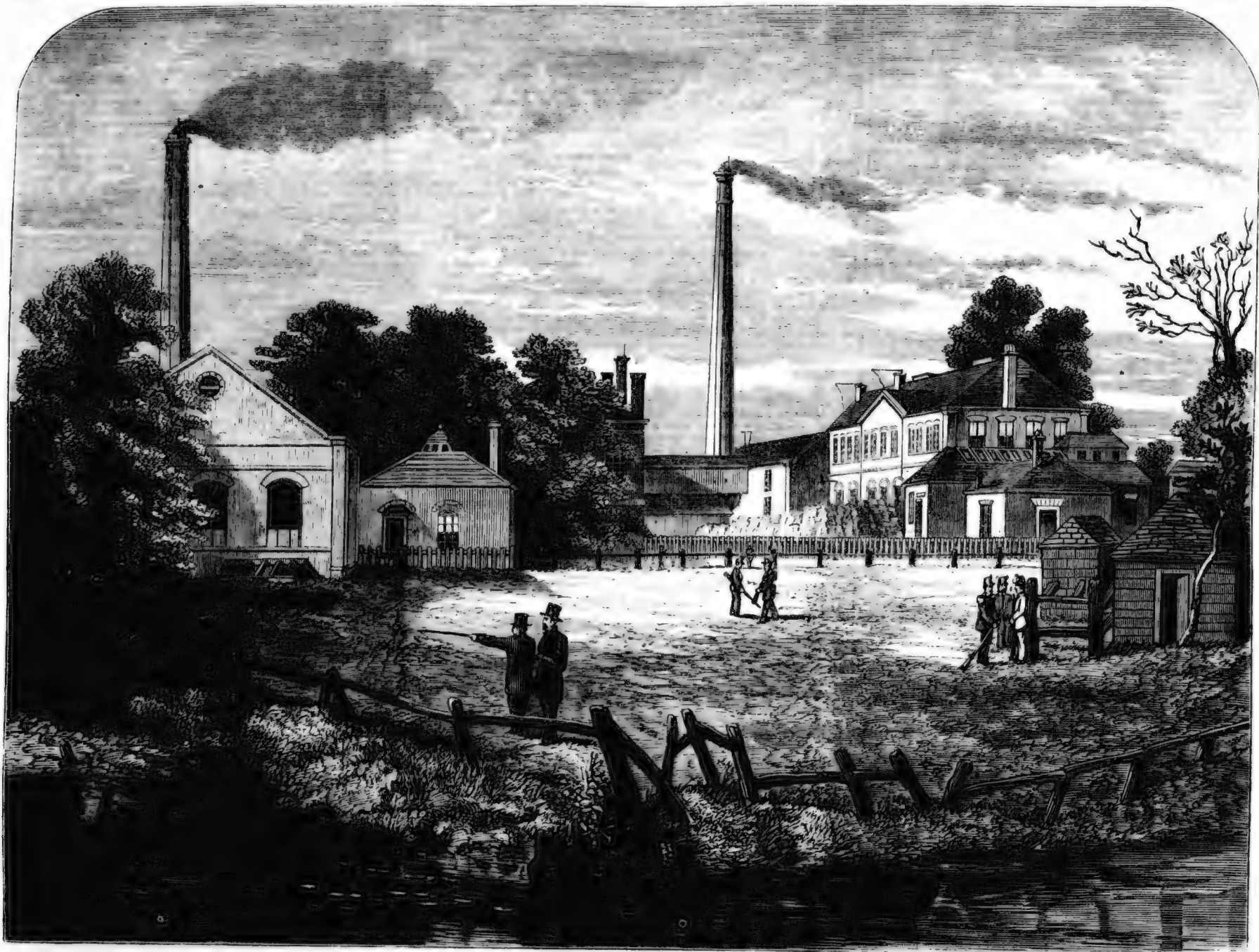
THE REV. LORD BAYNING.—The Rev. Lord Bayning died at Honington, Norfolk, on Sunday. The deceased nobleman, who took his degree of M.A. at St. John's College, Cambridge, so long since as 1817, was Vicar of Honington and East Tuddenham, Norfolk, and was a Rural Dean in the diocese of Norwich. He was formerly Rector of Brome, Suffolk. Lord Bayning married Emma, only daughter of the late Mr. W. H. Fellows, of Ramsey Abbey, Huntingdonshire, and had issue one son. This son, however, died a few months since, and the peerage, which was created in October, 1797, becomes extinct.

REV. J. M. NEALE.—The Rev. J. M. Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead, died on Monday last, at the early age, considering the extent of his literary labours, of forty-eight. The rev. gentleman obtained the Seatonian prize at Cambridge (for an English sacred poem) no fewer than nine times, between 1845 and 1861. His chief works are a "History of the Holy Eastern Church," and a "History of the Patriarchate of Alexandria" (1850). He has published an expurgated edition of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," and his notes thereon gave rise to much controversy. For children and schools he has written a "Church History," "Stories from Church History" (four series), "Hymns," "Histories of Greece and Portugal," "Stories from the Crusades and the Heathen Mythology," and "Tales of Christian Heroism." Among his other productions are:—"Agnes de Tracey," "Dukenier, or, the Revolt of La Vendée," "Herbert Trisham," "Ayton Priory and Shepperton Manor," "Medieval Hymns," "Readings for the Aged," "The Primitive Liturgies," and a "History of the Jesuit Church of Holland." A series of hymns on the "Joys of Paradise," translated from the rhythm of St. Bernard of Morlaix, beginning "Brief life is here our portion," "Jerusalem the Golden," "For thee, O dear, dear country," have found their way into nearly every modern collection. The rev. gentlemen is, however, probably best known for his connection with the East Grinstead Sisterhood, a society of Anglican nuns, whose labours in nursing the sick have been widely recognised. For many years his relations with them exposed him to great obloquy, and on one occasion he was mobbed at Lewes while celebrating the obsequies of Miss Sobell, a sister who had died from a fever caught in her attendance upon a patient. Last year the first stone of the permanent nunnery was laid with great pomp. Mr. Neale has not lived to see the completion of the building.

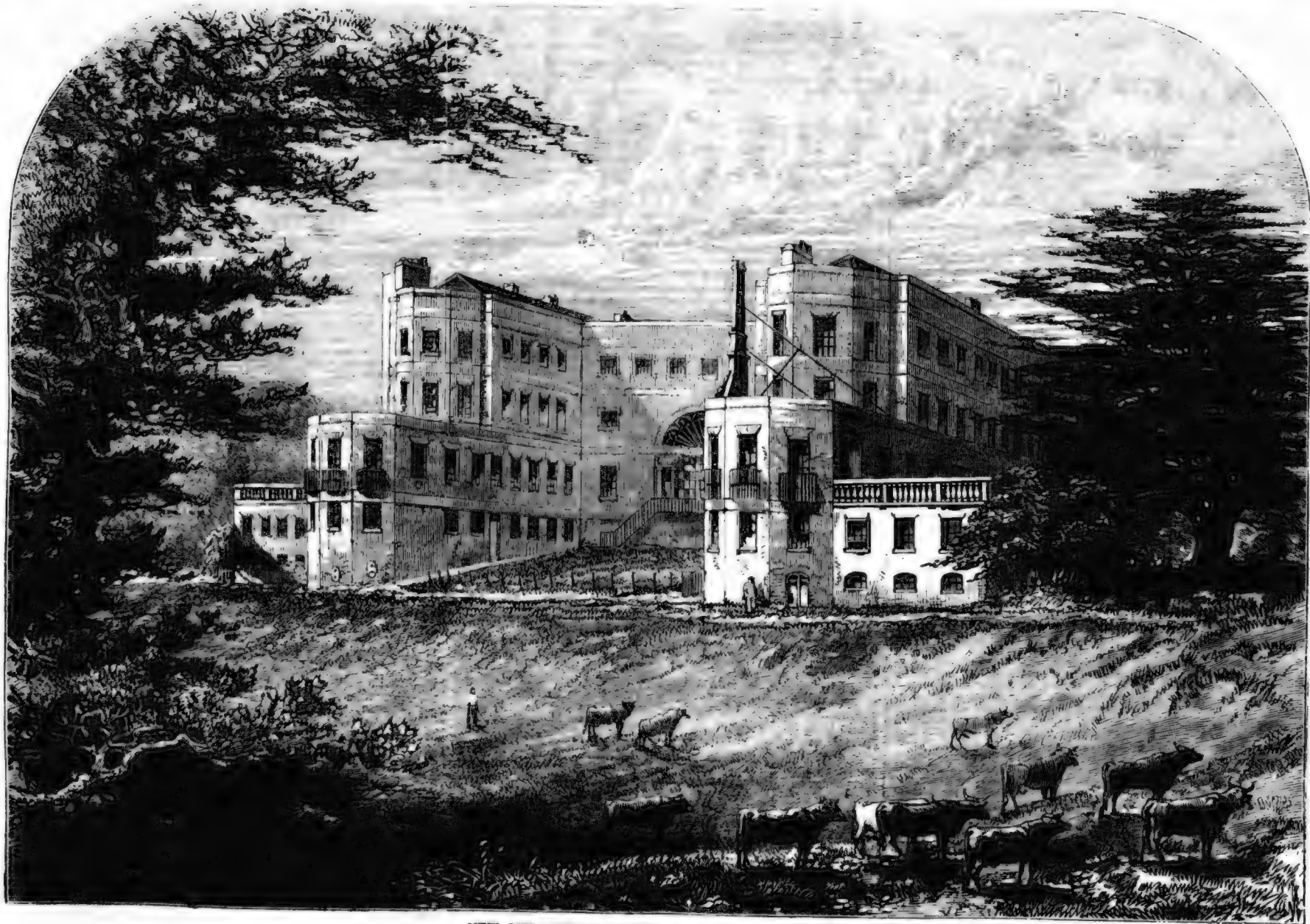
MR. OSBALDESTON.—Mr. George Osbaldeston, well known as an enterprising sportsman for more than half a century, died at his residence, Grove-road, St. John's-wood, on Wednesday evening week. He was born in London in 1787, and belonged to an old Yorkshire family. At an early age he was sent to Eton, where he soon distinguished himself in the sports of the field. From Eton he proceeded to Oxford, and entered at Brasenose College, but it does not appear from the University calendar that he took classical or mathematical honours. He seems rather to have devoted himself to hunting, and when Mr. Asheton Smith resigned the Quorn to take the Burton country, Mr. Osbaldeston succeeded him. In 1847 he became master of the Pytchley, and his "pack" was the admiration of the country. After pursuing this sport for a period of thirty-five years, he retired from the position of a master of foxhounds, and the followers of the Pytchley presented him with a gold snuffbox bearing this inscription:—"To the best sportsman of any age or country." He was also a first-rate shot, and it is stated, on the authority of Sir Richard Sutton, that he has killed ninety-eight pheasants out of a hundred shots. It is also recorded that he bagged in one day at Ebbertson (his own seat) no less than ninety-five brace of partridges, nine brace of hares, and five couple of rabbits. Some extraordinary achievements in the way of riding are also recorded of him. Out of one of his riding-matches a dispute arose between himself and Lord George Bentinck, the result of which was a hostile meeting at Wormwood-scrubs. Colonel Anson seconded Lord George, and Mr. Humphrey Mr. Osbaldeston. Both fired, but no harm was done, and all the gentlemen left the field "satisfied." It was in 1831 that he made the celebrated wager—£1000 even, to ride 200 miles in ten hours. Mr. Osbaldeston had to have as many horses as he pleased. The event came off in the New-market Houghton meeting, over four miles, commencing and finishing at the Duke's Stand, when Mr. Osbaldeston accomplished the 200 miles in 7h. 10m. and 4s.; 1h. 22m. and 56s. being allowed for stoppages. Twenty-eight horses were used. Mr. Osbaldeston also excelled as a cricketer and billiard-player.

OPENING OF THE OYSTER SEASON.—The legitimate "opening" of what in the metropolis is termed the "oyster season" took place, on Saturday morning last, at Billingsgate-market. At six o'clock a considerable number of buyers, many of them from the West-End, were waiting to go on board the fishing-boats, &c., of which only seven lay off the market pier. Immediately after the market bell had been rung by order of the clerk of the market under the Corporation, Mr. Deering, sales commenced briskly; but, from the comparatively scanty supply of bona fide "natives" and the positively high prices asked by the wholesale dealers (£5 per bushel), but little business was done in them for some time, when the value fell a little, and operations commenced with vigour, considerable clearances being shortly effected. Amongst the kinds called old royals, pearls, and cheyne rocks, a good trade was done at an early period; but the commoner sort, generally purchased by the "barrow" costermongers, went off rather slowly for a time; but, the charges becoming more moderate, by eight o'clock the chief part of the supply at market, both by boat and railway, had changed hands. Prices ruled as follow:—Natives, 90s. to 100s. per bushel; pearls, cheyne rocks, and old royals, 30s. to 35s.; common and other inferior kinds, from 18s. per bushel upwards.

NITROLEUM, THE NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR GUNPOWDER.—A highly-interesting official report has just been made by Colonel Shaffer of a series of experiments conducted by him at Washington for demonstrating the use of nitrolem (which, it should be explained, is the new and far preferable name by which the Colonel designates the compound which has hitherto been called nitro-glycerine) in the explosion of mines. The results fully confirm the fact that the explosive qualities of nitrolem are far in advance of gunpowder. Two similar cast-iron pipes, weighing each 300lb., had a hole 1 in. diameter and 15 in. deep bored in them, and were charged, one with powder and the other with nitrolem. The powder discharged through the fuse-vent, 3-16 in. diameter, did no injury. The nitrolem tore the iron to pieces, the force extending downward from the bottom of the charge, leaving a cone with its apex at the bottom of the drill-hole. Four musket-barrels were placed in wrought-iron cylinders, two filled with gunpowder, and two-filled one third full with nitrolem. The musket-barrels charged with powder were exploded by electricity; they burst open, tearing the iron to pieces. The explosion of the barrels charged with nitrolem produced a very different effect; they were flattened, and not so much broken to pieces; the force was so sudden and great that after the barrel had irregularly broken up and down the iron appeared like rolled plate, even and polished. The experiments appear to demonstrate that nitrolem can, with ordinary precautions, be handled and employed without greater danger than is common to gunpowder, and, for blasting operations at least, it presents undoubted advantages. —*Mining Journal.*



THE ROYAL RIFLE FACTORY AT ENFIELD.



NEW MERCANTILE MARINE HOSPITAL, BELVEDERE.



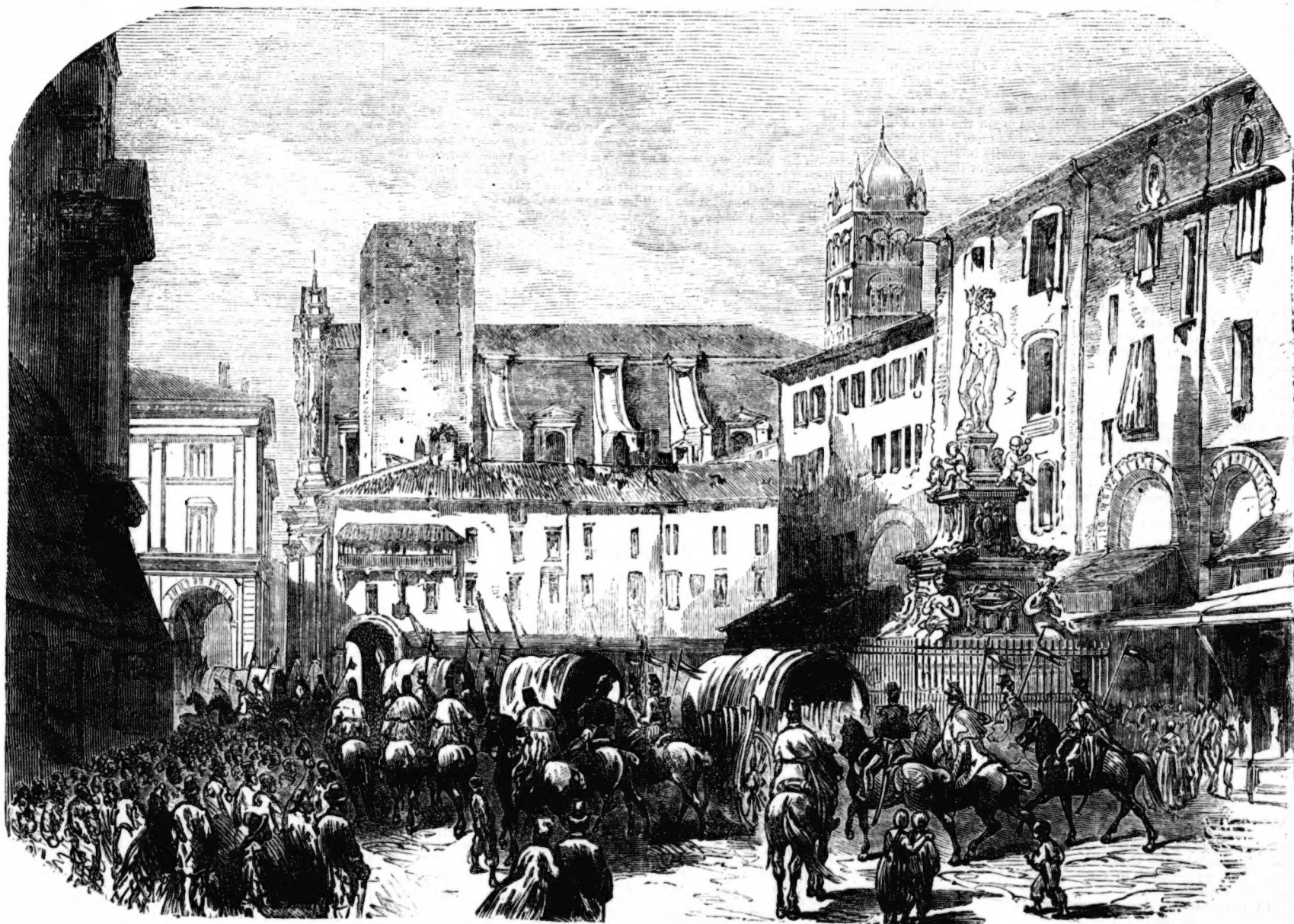
CANTONMENT OF CUIRASSIERS NEAR BERLIN.

THE GOVERNMENT SMALL-ARM FACTORY AT ENFIELD.

EXACTLY three hundred years after Princess Elizabeth's great visit to Enfield Chase, whither she went from Hatfield for the purpose of holding a grand Royal hunt, there arose in the same neigh-

bourhood a building devoted to the manufacture of a weapon before which the old musket became almost as obsolete as the yew-bows and cloth yard-shafts of the "fifty archers clad in scarlet boots and yellow caps," who presented a gilded arrow tipped with a peacock's feather to their future Queen. When once the rifle was established

as the weapon of our infantry, it became of the utmost importance that some definite and accurate plan should be adopted to secure not only the greatest completeness, but the absolute identity of the arms manufactured by the Government; and experience has proved that the weapon known as the Enfield rifle was a combination of



MILITARY CONVOY TRAVERSING THE PLACE DE NEPTUNE, BOLOGNA.

the best improvements, while the machinery employed in the great workshop at the place from which that weapon took its name secured the utmost possible accuracy. We had occasion during the period of the last great Industrial Exhibition to publish in these columns a very complete description of the machinery employed for the manufacture of rifles and pistols in the small-arms factory at Birmingham; and, though the subject is not without its temptations, the elaborate mechanism in operation at the Enfield works has sufficient resemblance to that referred to at the time mentioned to render any detailed particulars unnecessary in a general reference to this great workshop for the British Army. In a very short time the necessity for producing those breech-loaders which have now come to supersede the original Enfield will involve some alterations in, or rather additions to, the various processes at present conducted; and we may take an opportunity of presenting our readers with some more detailed description of the interior of this celebrated armoury; unless, indeed, another change is imminent, and the rumoured invention of a bullet-proof dress, impervious even to a conical projectile, should prove well founded, and the days of rifles be ended. Till that time arrives, however, Enfield will be one of the most important places in the world in connection with this principal arm of the land forces; and that quiet, plain, business-like, but vast building, the chimneys of which just rise above the trees on the low, marshy land skirting the London and Cambridge line of the Great Eastern Railway, will have enough work to employ its own great army of mechanics.

It can scarcely be expected that the public should be permitted to visit such a place, or that the facilities for gaining admission should be very great; and, indeed, few people not accustomed to the operations of machinery would find this enormous range of workshops really interesting; but to a reflective and observant visitor who has been favoured by admission to view the whole building it is a succession of wonders, from his first entrance into the large yard, in the centre of which the great reservoir provides the means of driving the two water-wheels, to the last room, where the process of finishing the gunstocks is in constant progress.

The range of buildings on the right hand is devoted almost exclusively to the formation and completion of the barrels or tubes of the rifles. The left is occupied by a range of offices and stores; and immediately in front, but at the back of the general offices, running parallel to the reservoir, is the large shop containing the machines for roughing out and finishing the various parts of the rifle—stock, lock, ramrod, &c. This room covers an area of 41,000 superficial feet, and is roofed on the same principle as that generally employed in the more extensive factories in the north of England. A flight of stairs on the left of this shop leads to a room used as a dépôt for all the parts of the rifle in a finished state, where they are finally criticised before being sent to be put together as complete arms. This putting together is accomplished in the stocking department, at one corner of the large machine-room, where a skilled workman, having the various parts before him all accurately finished, can complete an Enfield rifle in the short space of three minutes.

Passing from the large room into the smiths' shops, where all the forge work is done by hammer, may be seen the stamping machine for forming the wrought-iron details used in the rifles, such as the hammers and other parts of the locks, and the lockets and shanks of the bayonets. To the left is the turnery for engineering repairs, and the temporary shop where springs and steelwork are hardened, and where the mainsprings of the locks are bent to their proper shape by an ingenious machine. Then comes the foundry, where all the brass castings, such as butt-plates and guards, are made; and next the sorting stores, where the various articles are brought at different stages of their manufacture, and their accuracy tested by measurement—the system of labour at the Enfield factory being, we believe, that of "piece-work," at fixed prices, and on the decimal plan.

Returning to the large shop, where about 700 machines are at work, and to the square at which he enters, the visitor may see the line of buildings devoted to forming and preparing the barrels. The rolling department, where they are formed in the first instance, is fitted with reverberatory furnaces and rolls, with tapered grooves, through which the metal tubes are drawn. These are driven, by water-power, by two wheels of 46-horse power. Near this is the shop where the barrels are bored, turned, and finished; and on a floor above the breeches of the barrels are fitted and filed to true gauges, in such parts as are inaccessible to machinery.

The total number of distinct processes or operations upon the various parts of the Enfield rifle is 719. About 1800 hands are employed in this vast workshop, and about one rifle a week can be turned out for every pair of hands employed. The Enfield Rifle Factory is a great sight to all; and, at a time when the subject of the influence of a particular kind of arm upon the fate of a vast Empire, and upon the consequent future of Europe, is engaging such almost painful attention, it is more than usually interesting to know that our resources are, at all events, as reliable for the future as they have been in the past.

THE HOSPITAL FOR MERCHANT SEAMEN AT BELVEDERE.

We have more than once in these columns advocated the claims of the sailors of the mercantile marine to some provision similar to that of Greenwich Hospital; and all those who are acquainted with the necessity for some such refuge for the worn-out and disabled seamen of the merchant service will be rejoiced to know that a scheme has been set on foot for enabling them to end their days in such comfort as may be secured by a very little assistance.

It is to be lamented, however, that this has not been made the peculiar care of the Government, since it has quite lately been the subject of Parliamentary remark that the British Navy is mainly dependent for its efficiency on draughts from the men of the ordinary mercantile service. It is doubtful whether, in a country like ours, the whole maritime interest should not be carefully regarded as belonging to the nation; since (and especially now that we have recognised the value of the Naval Reserve) the fleet of commerce is but the training-school—the real reserve force of the national defence by sea. But the sailors of that fleet have a still more distinct claim upon the Government, inasmuch as for years a small percentage was deducted from the scanty pay of our merchant seamen for the support of Greenwich Hospital, from the benefits of which they have been and are still excluded.

There could be no better time for admitting this claim, and for performing a tardy act of justice, than the present, when a building has been purchased and subscriptions are urgently needed for establishing a hospital for aged and infirm sailors. The promoters of this most useful institution intend to adopt the plan already in operation at Greenwich, of granting weekly pensions to those men who desire to live with their families, and who can, in many instances, do something towards their own support, retaining the hospital itself for the reception of those who are either without family ties or who are too feeble to perform even the lightest labour.

There can be no doubt that the sailors themselves, and especially those who have already experienced the blessings of the "homes" which have done so much in improving the position of men who on their return from a voyage find themselves cast loose upon shore, will contribute something out of their hardly-earned wages to this excellent object. It is certain that most of our leading shipowners will respond with their usual liberality and active sympathy to any appeal having for its object the amelioration of the condition of men worn out or disabled in a service which is, perhaps, the most arduous and laborious in the world; but it would encourage and stimulate both patrons and probable recipients if they knew that they would be supported by the Government of the country in a cause which should not be reduced to the necessity of pleading with the public for subscriptions.

In the absence of any immediate prospect of State assistance, however, the committee of the proposed Hospital for Merchant Seamen have begun to work, as such men always do, accepting facts as they find them; and, under the energetic auspices of Mr. Phillips, Mr. Strang, Captain Trisett, Captain Lean (the honorary secretary), Captain Toynbee, and some other gentlemen already dis-

tinguished for their efforts in similar works, a house has been purchased for the reception of about a hundred inmates.

As we have already stated, the hospital itself is intended only for the relief of those who have no other home, or who require the care and attention which may be secured in such a place; the method of outdoor pensions being that which most strongly commends itself to the promoters of the work. Under these circumstances, the committee have shown their judgment in the selection of a house quite adequate for their present purpose, and one which, by its situation, as well as by the conveniences to be attained by comparatively trifling alterations, is perhaps as suitable as a new and costly edifice would have been.

This building, which was formerly the residence of Sir Culling Eardley, is known as Belvedere, and is situated on the brow of a hill near Erith, whence it commands an extensive view of a spot full of naval associations. The very name of Erith, if it be, as antiquaries guess, the Saxon *Err Hythe*, or Old Haven, is so obviously suitable for a hospital for sailors that that in itself is a happy connection.

Belvedere, however, is about a mile from Erith itself, on an eminence declining rapidly towards the north, a prospect of the Essex shore and all the life and animation of our noble river in the front, and at the back the rural scenery of Kent.

The hospital is now just completed for the reception of a certain number of inmates, and no doubt, at the meeting which we understand will shortly be held on behalf of the institution, the necessary funds will be forthcoming for commencing operations. Let us hope that the attention of Parliament will be drawn to the subject during next Session, and that the Government, in this respect at least, will prove to be composed of Liberal Conservatives.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF THE WAR.

HAPPILY we may call them by that title; for, while the sketches from which our Engravings are taken were on their way, the preliminaries of peace were being considered, and they are now completed. Austria may be discontented, but her people will cease to lament her lost prestige when they remember what might have been involved in the costly prosecution of a hopeless war. Italy will chafe at the inaction which may follow so closely upon her earnest preparations, and only two or three very doubtful successes to be balanced against decided reverses; but she will attain the professed object of her ambition, and the world cannot be kept in difficulty that her sense of military honour may be satisfied.

It was at Piacenza and Bologna that the Italian forces were concentrated for those movements which have now been altogether suspended; and at the latter place the excitement was intense, since it was for some time thought possible that the main effort of the army would be made in front of that city, on the line of the Po, between the Quadrilateral and the city of Venice. We all know now how differently things have turned out, although at the time when our sketch was made Ferrara, Ravenna, and Comacchio were in Italian hands, and the two former cities had been made by means of the railways, as it were, one with Bologna, which is itself the centre of all the Lombard-Emilian and Tuscan lines.

The armies of three nations, then, are encamped, waiting to learn the final decisions which may enable them to return to their homes, and it may be hoped that they will not wait in vain. Those Prussian cuirassiers who were so recently preparing for action in their quarters in the beautiful environs of the great German capital—who were, perhaps, sighing with regret that they must leave the Thiergarten and the Exercier-platz—have been in the brunt of terrible battles since that time, and are now, before we have had time to record their exploits, waiting till the order is given them to march—such of them as are left—back again to their beloved haunts in one of the most beautiful cities of Europe.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE season of benefits has begun at her Majesty's Theatre, which is a sign that the season in general is on the point of coming to an end. Mr. Santley appeared last Monday, Mdle. Ilma de Murska last Wednesday, in the character of a *beneficent*. Mdle. Titens had already filled that rôle; and the public, having now had opportunities of paying their particular respects to the three greatest artists employed at Mr. Mapleson's establishment, will for a time have to bid farewell to it altogether. On the occasion of Mr. Santley's benefit, "Il Trovatore" was played, Mr. Santley, of course, sustaining the part of the Count di Luna. Mdle. de Murska appeared in a mixed performance—the first act of "La Sonnambula," followed by the last act of "Lucia;" and we believe we have already stated that Mdle. Titens, in the representation specially associated with her name, was heard as Medea. The last performance of the season is announced for to-night (Saturday), when the first act of "Don Giovanni," the third act from "Faust" (including the garden scene), and the third act of "Les Huguenots," will be given.

Mr. Alfred Mellon's concert began on Monday. No novelty, with the exception of a waltz by Colonel Baillie, was produced; but the entertainment was on the usual grand scale, and a number of instrumental pieces of every possible kind were performed by Mr. Mellon's admirable band. The principal solo violinist is M. Wieniawski, the principal pianist Mdle. Krebs. The vocalist is Mdle. Liebbardt, and we hear that Mdle. Carlotta Patti is also engaged.

THE EMPRESS OF MEXICO landed at St. Nazaire on Wednesday, and proceeded to Paris.

NEW AND VARIABLE STARS.—At last week's sitting of the Academy of Sciences M. Faye spoke at some length on the question of new stars and variable ones. After advertising to the rarity of the former, and stating that Mr. Birmingham, in Ireland, was the first to perceive, on the 12th of May last, the star which appeared in Corona, and which is not a new one, but merely No. 2765 of Argelander's catalogue, and which, being only of the ninth magnitude, and hence invisible to the naked eye, suddenly burst forth on that date with considerable splendour. M. Faye states that it attained its maximum brilliancy almost immediately, and that it has now gradually dwindled down again to its original size. M. Faye holds the opinion that the stars hitherto mentioned as new are merely old ones which suddenly increase in brightness owing to some (volcanic?) convulsion. We beg to illustrate this to our readers by an example. Most geologists imagine (erroneously, we believe) our earth to be a hollow shell inclosing a vast quantity of mineral matter in a state of igneous fusion, the shell itself being nothing but the cooled crust formed on the surface of this fiery liquid. This crust occasionally cracks at some place or other, and some of the liquid (lava) issues forth, as in the case of volcanoes, which, by the partisans of this view of the case, are considered as a strong argument in favour. Let us now suppose the shell of our earth suddenly to burst in consequence of the violent action of the igneous matter, which would then rush out and cover nearly the whole surface. To an observer situated on some other celestial body our earth in its ordinary state would either not be visible at all or scarcely so; but this convulsion we have described would at once bring it conspicuously into view by the glare of the fiery fluid. But the latter would gradually cool down in course of time, like a red-hot iron, which ultimately becomes black, and so, to our observer, the earth would soon relapse into its former lustreless state. This is the explanation given of stars that suddenly appear and then fade away. Returning to M. Faye, he proceeded to adduce several arguments in favour of his own view, which is that variable stars and those which are called new belong to one and the same class of phenomena. From 1596 to 1800 not more than twelve or thirteen variable stars were observed; but since then the heavens have been subjected to such a searching and unremitting exploration that since 1846 nearly one hundred of them have been observed. The same is the case with new stars, three of which have been observed since 1848, while hardly twenty are mentioned in history previous to that time. M. Faye rejects the various explanations attempted by the earlier astronomers, simply on the ground that, as Schwabe has shown, the sun itself is but a variable star, the period of which is eleven years, and the variations of whose brilliancy are owing to the spots which appear on its surface. Such, he conceives, must also be the cause of the variations of brilliancy which are the characteristic of variable stars. The case of new ones is the same. Formerly only such stars were known as might be seen with the naked eye; now we have catalogued upwards of 300,000 stars, and our chances are much greater of finding in our catalogues some small star that may suddenly blaze forth in unwonted lustre. Thus, Janson's star, which appeared in 1600 as a star of the third magnitude, disappeared in 1621, and reappeared in 1665, is now definitely catalogued as P Cygni, according to Argelander. M. Faye promises to continue the subject on a future occasion.—*Galignani.*

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE Registrar-General's report for last week shows that the deaths from cholera are still on the increase in London:—

The deaths registered in London during the week were 2661. It was the thirty-first week of the year, and the average number of deaths for that week is, with a correction for increase of population, 1595. The deaths in the present return exceed the estimated number by 1266.

There is a slight increase in the high rate of mortality that ruled in the previous week. 1053 persons died of cholera, 354 of diarrhoea, making 1407 deaths from both forms of disease.

The deaths returned in the four last weeks from cholera were 32, 346, 904, and 1053; from diarrhoea 150, 221, 347, 354. The deaths from cholera exceed by 149 the deaths in the previous week; the excess in the total deaths is only 61. Of cholera and diarrhoea 573 children under five years of age; 114 boys and girls of the age of 5-10; 79 of the age 10-20; 255 men and women of the age 20-40; 248 of the age 40-60; 127 of the age 60-80; and 11 old people of 80 and upwards.

Deaths from diarrhoea or cholera in small numbers occurred all over the London districts; in Kensington, Marylebone, Pancras, Islington, Holborn, the numbers were considerable. In the west districts of London 12 persons died of cholera; in the north districts 46 (including 12 in Islington, 20 in Hackney); in the central districts 31, including 12 in St. Botolph; in the south districts 47, including 21 in Deptford and Greenwich; while in the east districts 916 persons died of unequivocal cholera. Only 16 of the deaths from cholera occurred in one of the largest of the east districts, Shoreditch. The violence of the attack is still expended on Bethnal-green, Whitechapel, St. George-in-the-East, Stepney, Mile-end Old Town, and Poplar, including Bow. There is some subsidence in Poplar and Stepney, but increased virulence in Bethnal-green and Whitechapel. The attack has been circumscribed by nearly the same lines for three weeks in succession. This is no accident; the phenomena are due to some specific cause.

These violent outbreaks are almost invariably in England the result of contamination of the waters. Upon the assumption that the waters were at some time impure, there is this further aggravation that in the lower districts the water is not carried away. "It is, unfortunately," says Mr. Bazalgette, "the locality where our main drainage works are not complete." A temporary pumping-station is to be erected forthwith, and will be in operation in about three weeks at Abbey Mills.

The East London waters have been analysed by Dr. Frankland, whose report is reassuring; and Mr. Greaves, the engineer, is fully alive to the extreme importance of pure water at the present moment. The waters of shallow wells and pumps are polluted; and in this crisis the health of London is very much in the hands of our hydraulic engineers.

The local authorities, who had not instituted generally house-to-house visitation, are now on the alert. The sympathy of the whole nation with the sufferers has been touchingly expressed by her Majesty, and has been proclaimed by the Prime Minister. Under these auspices, and with the intelligent exertions of the people themselves, we may hope ere long to see the destructive progress of the plague stayed.

The annual rate of mortality last week was 45 per 1000 in London, 23 in Edinburgh, and 20 in Dublin; 22 in Bristol, 22 in Birmingham, 53 in Liverpool, 38 in Manchester, 30 in Salford, 24 in Sheffield, 34 in Leeds, 24 in Hull, 41 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and 28 in Glasgow. The rate in Vienna was 33 per 1000 during the week ending the 21st ult., when the temperature was 18·2 deg. Fahrenheit higher than in the same week in London, where the rate was 31 per 1000.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29·56 in. The barometrical reading increased from 29·37 in. on Sunday to 29·77 in. on Wednesday. The mean temperature of the air in the week was 58·8 deg., which is 3·6 deg. below the average of the same week in fifty years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The highest day temperature was 72·9 deg. on Friday. The lowest night temperature was 46·0 deg. on Tuesday. The entire range of temperature in the week was, therefore, 26·9 deg. The mean of the highest temperatures of the water of the Thames was 62·6 deg.; that of the lowest was 61·9 deg. The difference between the mean dew point temperature and air temperature was 6·7 deg. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 79, complete saturation being represented by 100. Rain fell to the amount of 0·51 in.

The pressure upon all the public hospitals, dispensaries, &c., is great; and appeals have been made to public benevolence for aid to meet the emergencies of the time. The Bishop of London has originated one fund, to which her Majesty has contributed £500; another relief committee is presided over by the Lord Mayor; and a third fund has originated at a meeting of merchants, bankers, &c., in the City. The vestries of the various parishes are bestirring themselves to provide accommodation for the sick, to supply medicine, and to take measures for promoting the removal of nuisances, house-to-house visitation, and the improvement of the sanitary condition of the metropolis generally.

An excellent scheme has originated with Mrs. W. E. Gladstone, for taking charge of children either suffering from illness, or whose parents have died or are rendered unfit by disease for performing their duties to their offspring. The plan has been acted on as far as possible; but funds for that, as for other operations, are urgently needed.

A GREAT JEWEL SWINDLE.

ALL Paris is talking about a story which resembles a good deal that of "The Queen's necklace." In the month of February last a jeweller in Paris, M. Cramer, received a letter sealed with the Prussian arms, and signed "Comte de Schaffgotsch," Chamberlain of his Majesty the King of Prussia, in which he was asked if he wished to undertake the execution of some models, in brilliant of an order which the Queen intended to create. The jeweller immediately accepted, and some days afterwards there arrived some drawings executed by the Queen herself. The jeweller set to work forthwith, and in a few weeks afterwards he transmitted to Berlin a magnificent cross, surrounded with diamonds. He received congratulations, and an order for a dozen more diamond crosses, with a further promise of an order for the crown of the Prince of Hohenzollern as Sovereign of the Danubian Principalities. The jeweller was the happiest of men. His fortune was evidently made. But when and how was he to forward the crosses? The Count replied that he was just then charged with a diplomatic mission, and that on a day named he would be at Cologne, and would receive the decorations at a banker's in that town. The jeweller sends the crosses to the house of Oppenheim, informing them that they were to be delivered to the Chamberlain of the Queen of Prussia. Some days afterwards the Count informed by letter the intermediate agents that he would pass through the town at a certain hour, and begged them to forward to him the jeweller's parcel through a clerk. No sooner said than done. The Queen of Prussia was delighted, and her Chamberlain gives to the jeweller another order for crosses, to be also set in diamonds. But there was nothing said as to payment, and the jeweller, uneasy in mind, did at last what he should have done at first. He called upon the Prussian Ambassador at Paris, who informed him that he had been dealing with a knave and that the letters were all forged. The jeweller, in consternation, sets out for Baden under the advice of the Ambassador, sees the Queen, and is assured by her that she is an entire stranger to the whole story of the crosses. On his return to Paris the jeweller receives another letter from the pretended Count, who insinuates this time that he might himself be decorated with the order of the Red Eagle. Now, however, the jeweller was on his guard. The police were communicated with, and they managed to draw the fox into the trap. He is, it appears, a man of good family, whom passion for gambling has ruined. He is the son of an old General, and holds himself rank and title at the Court of Prussia, &c. The police have seized, at the hotel where he put up in Paris, all the jeweller's letters, some diamonds detached from the crosses, with several visiting cards, having the name of the Count of Schaffgotsch on them, together with a blank stamp bearing the arms of the Queen of Prussia, &c. This very curious affair will soon be unravelled before the tribunals.

ROAD-MENDING IN PARIS.—The Pont Royal is one of the most frequented bridges of Paris. The number of vehicles which traverse it at all hours of the day is enormous, and some difficulty is caused by even a brief interruption of the traffic during the night. The extent of the traffic, however, renders necessary frequent repairs to the road. A day or two since this operation was carried out over the whole length of the bridge, and in order to level and bind together a thick layer of broken granite the new steam-roller, weighing nearly 30,000 kilograms, which has already been employed in other parts of the city, was brought into use. The operation commenced at ten o'clock in the evening, and was continued throughout the night. In the morning the bridge was reopened for traffic, the road being sufficiently levelled to allow of vehicles passing over it without inconvenience. The new system of road-levelling is far more rapid and efficacious than the old plan of cumbersome rollers drawn by horses.

MEMORIAL TABLET TO THE LATE LORD PALMERSTON IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—A neat and beautiful memorial to the memory of Lord Palmerston has just been placed in the "statesman's corner" of Westminster Abbey, and being, as it is, directly over the grave of the late Premier, it will serve to point out to the present and future generations the exact spot where his remains are deposited. The memorial consists of a massive slab of beautifully-polished granite, neatly and effectively ornamented round the borders with flower-work. It is about 8 ft. long by 3 ft. wide, and in the centre a large cross has been cut into the slab. The only inscription is the plain and simple one of "Henry John, Viscount Palmerston, Oct. 18, 1865." No preparation has yet been made in the Abbey for the statue which is to be erected to the memory of Lord Palmerston, but it is expected that it will be placed there in the latter end of this or the early part of next year. The present memorial can be seen any day after Divine service, the space where it is situated being kept clear for that purpose.

maker.—A. ROBRISON, Dumfries, grocer.—J. M'LELLAN, Muir-
Selburgh, draper.—J. TOSHACK, Cowdenbeath, wright.

